

No. S263972

**IN THE SUPREME COURT
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION; MARIA LOYA,

Plaintiffs and Respondents,

v.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA,

Defendant and Appellant.

**OPPOSITION OF AMICI CURIAE THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA MONICA, THE
ALLIANCE OF SANTA MONICA LATINO AND
BLACK VOTERS, HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
SANTA MONICA BAY AREA, AND COMMUNITY
FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO
PLAINTIFFS-RESPONDENTS' MOTION TO
STRIKE AMICUS BRIEF FILED IN SUPPORT OF
DEFENDANT AND APPELLANT CITY OF SANTA
MONICA; DECLARATIONS AND EXHIBITS**

After a Decision by the Court of Appeal
Second Appellate District, Division Eight, Case No. B295935
Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC616804
The Honorable Yvette M. Palazuelos, Judge Presiding

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**OPPOSITION OF AMICI CURIAE TO
PLAINTIFFS-RESPONDENTS' MOTION TO
STRIKE AMICUS BRIEF**

Plaintiffs' motion to strike the Amicus Brief filed by the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica ("League of Women Voters"), the Alliance of Santa Monica Latino and Black Voters ("Alliance"), the Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area ("HRC"), and Community for Excellent Public Schools ("CEPS") is frivolous and should be denied.¹

On June 7, 2021, this Court granted the Amici permission to file their Amicus Brief based on the Application filed with the Brief. The facts set forth in the Application were and remain true. There is no basis for the Court to reconsider whether the four Amici entities may file an Amicus Brief in this case.

In arguing otherwise, plaintiffs sidestep the legal standard governing amicus briefs and ignore the purpose of such briefs as articulated by this Court in *Bily v. Arthur Young & Co.* (1992) 3 Cal.4th 370 [11 Cal.Rptr.2d 51]. Moreover, plaintiffs' motion (especially the declaration of plaintiffs' counsel) is grounded in baseless speculation about Amici and their counsel that is demonstrably false. (See Declarations of Natalya Zernitskaya, Nathaniel Trives, John Maceri, and Debbie Mulvaney filed herewith.)

¹ Three of the Amici have websites that were included in their Application to file the Amicus Brief. (Brief at pp. 6-7.) Their websites may be found at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/santa-monica>; <http://hrcsantamonica.org/>; and <http://www.excellentpublicschools.org/>.

Notably, plaintiffs do not contest the League of Women Voters' legitimacy as an amicus. (*See also* Declaration of Natalya Zernitskaya.) This, by itself, should defeat plaintiffs' motion to strike the Amicus Brief. Below, Amici set forth why these four organizations (and individuals) satisfy the legal standard for participating as amicus curiae and provide sworn declarations and documentary evidence in support of their opposition to plaintiffs' meritless motion.

A. The California Rules of Court Allow Amicus Briefs to be Filed by “Any Person or Entity.”

The rule governing who may file an amicus brief is contained in California Rules of Court, Rule 8.520, subdivision (f)(1), which states:

“After the court orders review, any person or entity may serve and file an application for permission of the Chief Justice to file an amicus curiae brief.”

On its face, this rule establishes a simple/straightforward standard for participation as an amicus curiae. Literally, “any person or entity” may file an amicus brief subject to the Chief Justice's approval.

Moreover, this rule should be construed in accordance with its purpose. As this Court made clear in *Bily v. Arthur Young & Co.*, *supra*, 3 Cal.4th at 405, fn. 14:

“Both our rules and our practice accord wide latitude to interested and responsible parties who seek to file amicus curiae briefs. (Cal. Rules of Court

rule 14(b).) Amicus Curiae presentations assist the court by broadening its perspective on the issues raised by the parties.”

The point of amicus briefs is to provide the Court with diverse perspectives on the legal issues under consideration. Here, the four amicus entities have presented an amicus brief that takes an independent pro-voting rights approach to the CVRA and the legal question presented that is different from the approach taken by the parties. Consistent with this Court’s opinion in *Bily v. Arthur Young & Co.*, *supra*, the Court will benefit from considering the approach taken in the Amici’s Brief in addressing the question presented.

B. Plaintiffs’ Motion to Strike is Grounded in Baseless Speculation that is Demonstrably False.

Plaintiffs’ counsel, based on his sparse research and clear lack of knowledge of Santa Monica, claims he was unable to determine the organizational status of three of the amicus entities (the Alliance, the HRC, and CEPS). Plaintiffs’ counsel then jumped to the conclusion that these organizations must not be legitimate and, in two cases (the Alliance and CEPS), may have been “conjured up” by Amici’s counsel.²

Had plaintiffs’ counsel conducted a simple Yahoo or Google internet search of these organizations³ and individuals (former Santa Monica Mayors Nat Trives and Antonio Vazquez), or, in

² See Shenkman Declaration at ¶ 3.

³ See, e.g., Exhibits B, G and L.

the cases of HRC and CEPS, simply *taken a moment* to open the links to their websites conveniently provided in Amici's Application, he would have learned the following concerning these organizations without taking up the Court's time with his baseless motion to strike:

1. Alliance of Santa Monica Latino and Black Voters

The Application filed with the Amicus Brief makes it clear that the Alliance is an *ad hoc* organization formed by longtime Santa Monica community leaders and former Councilmembers and Mayors Antonio ("Tony") Vazquez and Nathaniel ("Nat") Trives, and other Latino and Black civic and community leaders for the specific purpose of joining the Amicus Brief.⁴ The Alliance is an unincorporated association. (Declaration of Nathaniel Trives at ¶ 13.) Such entities have standing to sue. (*See, e.g., Save the Plastic Bag Coal. v. City of Manhattan Beach* (2011) 52 Cal.4th 155, 161 (where the plaintiff was an unincorporated association that was formed to challenge the specific measure at issue in the litigation).

In addition, Mr. Trives and Mr. Vazquez, co-chairs of the Alliance specifically mentioned in their amicus application to this

⁴ As the Amicus Brief states, "The Alliance is co-chaired by civic leaders Antonio Vazquez, Santa Monica's first Latino Mayor (2015-2016), a City councilmember elected to office three times for a total of ten years (1990-1994 and 2012-2019) and a long-time Santa Monica resident (currently an elected member of the State Board of Equalization), and Nat Trives, Santa Monica's first Black Mayor (1975-77), a City councilmember elected to office two times for a total of eight years (1971-79) and a longtime Santa Monica resident." (Amicus Brief at p. 7.)

Court,⁵ constitute “persons” entitled to join the Amicus Brief filed by the League of Women Voters, the Human Relations Council, Santa Monica Bay Area, the Community for Excellent Public School, and the Alliance pursuant to Rule 8.520, subdivision (f)(1).⁶

2. Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area

The Human Relations Council, Santa Monica Bay Area, is a respected non-profit organization composed of community organizations, businesses, and individuals that promotes a culture of fair treatment, inclusion, and equal access to opportunities. (<http://hrcsantamonica.org/about-us/>; *see also* Declaration of John Maceri.) The HRC was formed by a group of concerned community members and organizations in 2004 after

⁵ Amicus Brief at p. 7.

⁶ Plaintiffs’ counsel’s attempt to silence the voices of Nat Trives and Antonio Vazquez on the grounds that he has never heard of their organization is unfortunate. Nat Trives, frequently referred to as “Mr. Santa Monica” for his life of service to the Santa Monica community, is a well-known and highly-regarded figure in Santa Monica. (<https://smmirror.com/2007/01/nat-trives-a-former-mayor-looks-back/>.) For example, California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez appointed Mr. Trives to the California Commission on Judicial Performance in 2007. (Trives Decl. ¶ 6; <http://www.metnews.com/articles/2007/triv100407.htm>.) In 2020, Mr. Trives was appointed by the City of Santa Monica to serve on its new Public Safety Reform Commission in the wake of national and community-wide calls for racial justice in the aftermath of George Floyd’s death. (Trives Decl. at ¶ 4.) Similarly, Antonio Vasquez, the first Latino elected to the State Board of Equalization, has been a tireless advocate for the residents of Santa Monica for decades. (<https://www.boe.ca.gov/vazquez/about.htm>.)

the Santa Monica chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) closed in 2003. (*Id.*)

The Board of Directors of the HRC is composed of twenty-seven (27) diverse and respected community leaders, including, Dr. Jody Priselac, Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Information Services at UCLA; Deb Farmer, President and CEO of the Westside Family Health Center; Eric Shafer, Senior Pastor, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica; Ana Maria Jara, former Santa Monica City Councilmember and community activist; Julie Rusk, former Chief of Civic Wellbeing for the City of Santa Monica; Janet Gollery McKeithen, Senior Pastor, Church in Santa Monica; Stephanie Cohen, District Director for Los Angeles County Supervisor and former member of the State Assembly and Senate Sheila Kuehl; Nat Trives, former Santa Monica City Councilmember and Mayor; Tara Pomposini, CEO of the Santa Monica Family YMCA, and Captain Thomas McLaughlin, Santa Monica Police Department. (<http://hrisantamonica.org/board-of-directors/>; Maceri Decl. at ¶ 2; Exhibit J.)

If plaintiffs' counsel had simply opened the link to HRC's website, he would have learned about its long-standing collaboration with other local community organizations in pursuing social justice:

“HRC Santa Monica maintains
established relationships with
institutions in the community for joint
participation with the goal of

collaborating and expanding programs
that support our mission of creating a
more just, equitable and human society.
With the **Santa Monica-Malibu
Unified School District**, the **Rev. Dr.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside
Coalition**, the **Westside Interfaith
Council** and the **Center for Civic
Mediation**, the HRC shares commitment
to building a better community for all.”

(<http://hrisantamonica.org/partnership-dialogue-and-table-talk/>, emphasis in original; Maceri Decl. at ¶ 3.)

If plaintiffs’ counsel had opened the link to HRC’s website, he would have also learned about HRC’s sponsorship of a variety of community programs, including its most recent initiative, the Santa Monica Wellbeing Microgrant Program, which provides targeted grants to local Santa Monica residents to take direct, small-scale actions to improve our community. (Maceri Decl. at ¶ 4.) Recent grant recipients include projects supporting COVID-19 relief, senior citizen care packages, youth entrepreneurship, election awareness for the Santa Monica Ethiopian community, improved voter access, and the Westside Black Lives Film Exposition. (*Id.*; <http://hrisantamonica.org/programs/civic-wellbeing-partners/>.)

The Declaration of John Maceri provides additional information concerning HRC’s programs and its decision to join the League, CEPS, and the Alliance in an amicus brief to this

Court.⁷ (Maceri Decl. at ¶¶ 5 & 7.) Certainly, HRC is an “entity” within the meaning of Rule 8.520, subdivision (f)(1).⁸

3. Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS)

Although a link to CEPS’s website was also provided in its Amicus Brief, plaintiffs’ counsel nonetheless claims that no such organization exists and may have been created out of whole cloth by its pro bono counsel. Charitably, plaintiffs’ counsel is recklessly misinformed.

The Community for Excellent Public Schools is a non-profit political action committee, registered with the City of Santa

⁷ As Mr. Maceri states in his declaration, HRC, an all-volunteer organization registered with the State of California as a non-profit public benefit entity, recently learned that it inadvertently failed to file all of the necessary paperwork with the State to maintain its status. (Maceri Decl. at ¶ 7.) HRC is currently working diligently to correct this oversight. *Id.* As plaintiffs concede, HRC is not a party to this action attempting to “prosecute or defend a civil action.” (Plaintiffs’ Motion to Strike Amicus Brief at pp. 1-2.) As a result, plaintiffs’ attempt to apply the “same logic” concerning limitations placed on suspended corporations from suing or defending themselves in court is inapplicable to the right of “any person or entity” to serve and file an application for permission to file an amicus brief.

⁸ Many all-volunteer, non-profit entities face challenges complying with the State’s reporting requirements. For example, while attacking HRC’s non-profit status, plaintiffs’ counsel neglects to mention that his client, Pico Neighborhood Association (an actual party in this case), has failed to file required financial forms with the Attorney General’s Office and, as a result, its registry status is listed as “Delinquent.” (Exhibit U.) Similarly, PNA has failed to file its required “Statement of Information” with the Secretary of State, which was due more than a year ago.

Monica.⁹ CEPS's official committee identification number is 1243108, which plaintiffs' counsel could have easily located on CEPS's website by simply clicking the "Take Action," "Join Us," or "Donate" tabs. (<http://www.excellentpublicschools.org/>; Exhibit T.)

CEPS has supported state and local funding measures for public education and endorsed candidates for the Santa Monica City Council, the Santa Monica College ("SMC") Board of Trustees, and the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District ("SMMUSD") Board of Education for nearly twenty (20) years. (<http://www.excellentpublicschools.org/>; Declaration of Debbie Mulvaney, hereinafter "Mulvaney Decl.," at ¶ 1.) CEPS has more than 750 members in the Cities of Santa Monica and Malibu. (*Id.*)

CEPS is composed of a steering committee of twenty-four (24) actively-involved citizens who share a vision and commitment to excellence in public schools from early childhood through post-secondary education.¹⁰ (Mulvaney Decl. at ¶ 2;

⁹ CEPS has filed financial disclosures required by the City of Santa Monica and California's Political Reform Act *on one-hundred and eighteen (118) occasions* since 2004. (Mulvaney Decl. at ¶ 8.) The City of Santa Monica and the State of California maintain user-friendly websites which allows residents and other interested parties (including plaintiffs' counsel) to locate political action committees by organization name, committee identification number, expenditures, and/or or contributions. (<https://public.netfile.com/pub2/Default.aspx?aid=CSM>; <https://www.sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying/cal-access-resources/city-and-county-electronic-filings>.)

¹⁰ In addition, CEPS has nine additional *ex officio* members of the organization, including past and present Santa Monica

<http://www.excellentpublicschools.org>.) The chair of CEPS is Shari Davis, Co-Director of the Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute and Adjunct Professor of Political Science at SMC. (<https://www.smc.edu/directory/davis-shari.php>; Mulvaney Decl. at ¶ 2.) Professor Davis is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School, where she earned a Master’s degree in Public Policy, co-chaired the Kennedy School’s student government, and served on Harvard’s Institute of Politics Student Advisory Committee. (*Id.*)

CEPS has been the face of public education advocacy in Santa Monica public schools for nearly twenty years. (Mulvaney Decl. at ¶ 4.) During this time, CEPS has supported revenue measures that have helped generate over \$35 million per year in additional public school funding for the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District, which represents more than \$400 million in additional funding since 2003. (*Id.* at ¶ 5.)

Since 2004, CEPS has hosted “Candidates Forums” to provide opportunities for voters to hear City Council, SMC College Board, and SMMUSD School Board candidates’ views on supporting public education. (*Id.* at ¶ 6.) Since that time, CEPS

College Trustees Barry Snell and Louise Jaffe, Ph.D., SMMUSD Board members Jennifer Smith, Jon Kean, Laurie Lieberman and Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Ph.D., Santa Monica City Councilmember and former Mayor Gleam Davis, Harry Keiley, past president of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District Classroom Teachers Association and current chair of the California Teachers Association Political Involvement Committee and the Board of CalSTRS, as well as Nat Trives, former two-term Santa Monica City Councilmember and Santa Monica’s first Black mayor. (Mulvaney Decl. at fn. 1.)

has endorsed and supported candidates for these elected positions. (*Id.*) CEPS is proud of its track record of helping to elect racially-diverse candidates to local public office, including Santa Monica City Councilmembers Tony Vazquez, Ana Maria Jara, Gleam Davis, and Kristin McCowan, Santa Monica College Board of Trustees Dr. Margaret Quinones-Perez and Barry Snell, and SMMUSD Board of Education members Maria Leon-Vazquez, Jose Escarce, Oscar de la Torre, and Keith Coleman. (*Id.*)

Plaintiffs’ counsel’s claim that he could not locate any information concerning CEPS is disingenuous. Had he been at all curious, plaintiffs’ counsel could have simply asked Santa Monica City Councilmember Oscar de la Torre, the former president of his client, Pico Neighborhood Association, and/or his wife, plaintiff Maria Loya.¹¹ Mr. de la Torre, who was elected five times to the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District Board of Education, regularly participated in public events in which CEPS representatives were present. (Mulvaney Decl. at ¶ 7.)

For example, in 2004, Mr. de la Torre participated in a statewide “Caravan for Kids” organized by CEPS and the California State PTA to protest reductions in public education funding. (*Id.* at ¶ 4(f) and fn. 4.) In an article published in the *Santa Monica Outlook* on April 28, 2004, Mr. de la Torre praised

¹¹ Mr. de la Torre filed an amicus brief in support of his spouse and plaintiff PNA on June 11, 2021. (Mulvaney Decl. at ¶ 12; Trives Decl. at ¶ 17.) No other Santa Monica residents or local community organizations filed a brief in support of plaintiffs.

the remarkable success of CEPS's "Caravan for Kids," stating, "The good people of Santa Monica are known for progressive politics. This will go down in history as a highlight of our collective activism.' De la Torre reflected while walking to his car after the downtown rally."¹² (*Id.*; emphasis added.)

Finally, CEPS's treasurer Debbie Mulvaney and another CEPS Steering Committee member, Tom Larmore, served on a small SMMUSD committee with Mr. Shenkman several years ago. (Mulvaney Decl. at ¶ 9.). During introductions, Ms. Mulvaney and Mr. Larmore identified themselves as members of CEPS. As Ms. Mulvaney observes, under these circumstances, it strains credibility to believe Mr. Shenkman's claim that he has never heard of CEPS. (*Id.*)

Amici do not believe plaintiffs' counsel is being candid or straightforward with this Court. To be sure, Amici recognize that plaintiffs' counsel has much at stake -- literally, millions of dollars.¹³ Perhaps that explains his conduct here, but surely it does not justify it.

¹² In addition, Mr. de la Torre sought and received CEPS's endorsement for reelection to the school board. (Mulvaney Decl. at ¶ 7.) Plaintiff's Maria Loya was invited to participate in a CEPS voter forum during her unsuccessful run for the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees, but failed to respond to the invitation for endorsement consideration. (*Id.* at fn. 6.)

¹³ See Court of Appeal's Opinion at p. 21 ("... Pico has asked the trial court to order the City to pay it about \$22 million in attorney fees and costs."; see also Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney Fees and Expenses, p. 2 (moving for "...fees in the amount of \$13,419,398.25 to Shenkman & Hughes PC, \$4,380,806.25 to the Parris Law Firm, \$2,342,463.75 to the Law Offices of Milton C.

In any event, CEPS has an almost 20-year record of accomplishments in supporting public education. CEPS clearly constitutes an “entity” under Rule 8.520, subdivision (f)(1).

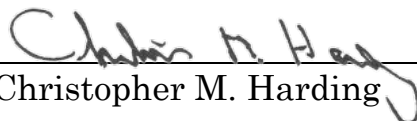
C. Conclusion.

Plaintiffs and their counsel clearly do not want this Court to read and consider the Amicus Brief filed by the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica, the Alliance of Santa Monica Latino and Black Voters, the Human Relation Council, Santa Monica Bay Area, and the Community for Excellent Public Schools, which articulates a progressive, pro-voting rights approach to the CVRA and concludes that at-large elections best serve the interests of Latino and other protected class voters and their preferred candidates in Santa Monica.

Plaintiffs are, understandably, concerned about the legal arguments set forth in the Amicus Brief. But there are no grounds to strike it. Accordingly, this Court should deny plaintiffs’ motion to strike and proceed to consider the Amicus Brief filed by the League, the Alliance, HRC and CEPS in addressing the question presented on review: “What must a Plaintiff prove in order to establish vote dilution under the California Voting Rights Act?”

Dated: July 19, 2021

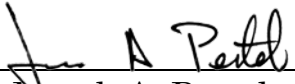
Respectfully submitted,



Christopher M. Harding

Grimes, and \$1,278,676.13 to the Law Office of Robert Rubin, as well as expenses of \$905,725.14...”).

LAW OFFICE OF JOSEPH
PERTEL

By:  _____
Joseph A. Pertel

*Attorneys for Amici Curiae
League of Women Voters of
Santa Monica, the Alliance of
Santa Monica Latino and
Black Voters, the Human
Relations Council Santa
Monica Bay Area, and
Community for Excellent
Public Schools*

Document received by the CA Supreme Court.

DECLARATION OF NATALYA ZERNITSKAYA

I, Natalya Zernitskaya, declare the following to be true and correct:

1. I am the President of the Board of Directors and a member of the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica (“League”). (<https://my.lwv.org/california/santa-monica>; Exhibit A.) The League is a nonpartisan nonprofit political organization established in Santa Monica in 1934 that seeks to support informed and active participation in government.¹ The League does not endorse or oppose specific political parties or candidates running for public office, but seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

2. The League is composed of an elected Board of Directors of eight dedicated members. All current and immediate past board members are Santa Monica residents. The League is part of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County (LWV/LAC), the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC), and the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWV). The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica has more than 100 members.

3. The members of the League’s Board of Directors were actively involved in the process of reviewing and editing multiple drafts of the Amicus Brief filed in this case on behalf of the League, the Alliance of Santa Monica Latino and Black Voters (Alliance), the Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area (HRC), and Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS). The Board of Directors of the League voted unanimously to participate as amici curiae with these Santa Monica organizations.

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¹ The League can be found through an easy internet search, with results including its website, community blog, Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter accounts, press releases, position papers, and local newspaper articles concerning the organization’s activities over the past several decades. (Exhibit B.)

4. On June 7, 2021, the League issued the following public statement concerning the filing of our Amicus Brief in this case:

“The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica (LWVSM), together with the Alliance of Santa Monica Latino and Black Voters, the Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area (HRC), and Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) have filed an Amicus Brief in support of the City of Santa Monica (“City) in the California Supreme Court’s review of the Pico Neighborhood Association, Maria Loya v. City of Santa Monica regarding the application of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA).

“The LWVSM strongly believes in the CVRA and its mission to protect the equal voting rights of marginalized and disenfranchised communities, legally referred to as protected-class voters.

- **We believe that the remedy sought in this lawsuit will not resolve the issues raised by the Plaintiffs in a way that further empowers Latino voters in Santa Monica.**
- **The CVRA was not intended to be a one-size-fits-all solution in its application and it was not intended to mandate the abolition of at-large election systems, as confirmed by its author during the legislative process for the law.**

“Santa Monica is a community of strong and varied values willing to speak out on the many issues that need addressing in our community. And we live in a country that has become increasingly polarized, to the extent that the right of Americans to vote and have their votes counted has come under threat. Bills have been introduced in more than half of America’s state legislatures with the not-so-subtle intent of suppressing the vote of African Americans and other people of color.

....

“Why we’re signing onto this Amicus Brief

“In this specific case, the plaintiffs allege that the City of Santa Monica has discriminated against Latino voters through maintaining at-large elections, that Santa Monica’s current at-large election system has prevented Latino voters in Santa Monica from electing their preferred candidates to office by diluting their voting power, and that the City should move to district-based elections for City Council with a specific carved out district in the Pico neighborhood that would include approximately 30% of the City’s Latino voters.

“The CVRA is intended to protect the equal voting rights of marginalized and disenfranchised communities by outlining the elements that demonstrate a violation of the law. However, not all of the elements are clearly defined in the language of the law

and some were intended to use definitions as laid out in the Federal Voting Rights Act.

“The California Supreme Court has chosen to take up review of this case to determine ‘What must a Plaintiff prove in order to establish vote dilution under the California Voting Rights Act?’

“We have signed onto this amicus brief because we believe that the appropriate baseline for vote dilution should be rough proportionality. In order to determine whether protected class voters have had their votes diluted, the appropriate measurement should be whether protected class voters are able to elect candidates of their choice in proportion to their representation in the community.

“We do not believe the remedy sought in this lawsuit will resolve the issues raised by the Plaintiffs in a way that further empowers Latino voters in Santa Monica. Latino voters are approximately 13.6% of the voting population in Santa Monica, but Latino/Latino surnamed candidates made up 22.2% of the winning City Council candidates from 2002-2020 through the current at-large election system. Additionally, a move from our current at-large system to district-based elections as proposed by the plaintiffs would lead to less representation compared to the City’s current situation as three (3) of the current protected class City Council members all reside in the proposed “Pico Neighborhood District.” The proposed remedy would also have the effect of reducing the ability of the remaining 70% of Latino (and other protected class) voters outside of this district to influence elections.

“As this lawsuit would impact elections, voters, the Santa Monica community, and government-related processes, the LWVSM Board of Directors decided that we needed to speak out. Based on the findings and the applicability of numerous League positions and the history of our deep and active involvement in fighting for all voters to have fair representation, the LWVSM board of directors unanimously voted to sign onto this Amicus Brief.

What We See Moving Forward

“Systemic racism has been and still is a problem in Santa Monica, as it is throughout California and the nation. We recognize the harms that have been perpetuated against marginalized and disenfranchised people in our community, including the displacement of Latino and Black/African-American families in the construction of the 10 Freeway, the racist exclusionary zoning policies that prevented non-white Santa Monicans from living in certain areas of the city for decades, and restrictive racial covenants that aimed to prevent non-white residents from purchasing, renting, or residing in homes in certain neighborhoods, and other discriminatory measures perpetuated by existing systems of power.

“We believe in a Santa Monica where all Santa Monicans have the access and the opportunity to be informed, active participants in local government. There is much

more work to do to ensure an equitable Santa Monica for all, but moving to district elections as proposed would not be a step in the right direction. Looking at potential outcomes, district elections would result in less representation and reverse the strides our community has made over the last two – three decades in increasing the representation of Latino and other protected class voters in the City.

“We encourage everyone reading (or listening to) this statement to take the time to read the brief. Don’t rely on other people’s interpretations or talking points. It is part of our mission to encourage informed engagement, and this is no different.”

(<https://my.lwv.org/california/santa-monica/article/announcement-filing-amicus-brief-cvra-case>; Exhibit C; emphasis in original.)

4. In his motion, Plaintiff’s counsel, Kevin Shenkman, claims that some of the “purported” organizations that joined the League in our joint amicus brief “may have been conjured up” by our pro bono counsel, Christopher Harding and Joseph Pertel, who worked with our organizations to draft this pleading. This statement is patently false. CEPS and HRC have been integral parts of our vibrant Santa Monica community for nearly two decades. (<http://www.excellentpublicschools.org/>; <http://hrccsantamonica.org/>.)

5. With respect to the Alliance, the amicus brief states that it “is an ad hoc coalition of Latino and Black residents of Santa Monica (. . .) co-chaired by civic leaders Antonio Vazquez (. . .) and Nat Trives. (Amicus Brief of the League, Alliance, HRC and CEPS at pp. 6-7.) I have served with Nat Trives as a member of the Board of Directors for the Human Relations Council, Santa Monica Bay Area for several years. Mr. Trives has an outstanding reputation in Santa Monica for his decades of public service, including service as a member of the Santa Monica City Council and as Santa Monica’s first Black mayor. I am appalled that Plaintiff’s counsel would seek to dismiss Mr. Trives’ views on voting rights for protected class voters in Santa Monica, as well as those of Tony Vazquez, another long-time resident and distinguished public servant in our community.

I declare the forgoing to be true and correct under penalty of perjury. Executed this 17th day of July 2021, at Santa Monica, California.



Natalya Zernitskaya

DECLARATION OF NATHANIEL TRIVES

I, Nathaniel Trives, declare as follows:

1. My name is Nathaniel Trives. I am filing this declaration in my individual capacity and as co-chair of The Alliance of Santa Monica Latino and Black Voters (“Alliance”). I serve as co-chair of the Alliance with my friend and colleague Antonio Vazquez.

2. I am a long-time resident of Santa Monica. My family moved to Santa Monica in 1949, when I was 14 years old. I graduated from Santa Monica High School in 1952. I served as Student Body President of Santa Monica High School during my senior year.

3. I have been active in Santa Monica community, civic, charitable, educational and governmental affairs for more than 50 years.

4. My community service has included serving on the Santa Monica City Council for eight years (1971-79) and as the first Black mayor of Santa Monica (1975-77). In July 2020, I was appointed by the City of Santa Monica to its new Public Safety Reform Commission in the wake of national and community-wide calls for racial justice. (Exhibit D; https://www.surfsantamonica.com/ssm_site/the_lookout/news/News-2020/July-2020/07_10_2020_Santa_Monica_Announces_Appointments_to_Police_Task_Force.html.)

5. I spent more than twenty years as a Professor in the Political Science Department at California State University, Los Angeles, where I taught criminal justice. I also served as a Special Master for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California overseeing a consent decree governing the resolution of race and gender bias issues in the San Francisco Police Department.

6. In 2007, California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez appointed me to the California Commission on Judicial Performance. (“Assembly Speaker Appoints Ex-Santa Monica Mayor to CJP.” *Metropolitan News*, October 4, 2007, Exhibit E; <http://www.metnews.com/articles/2007/triv100407.htm>.)

7. I have served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area (“HRC”) and on the Steering Committee of Community for Excellent Public Schools (“CEPS”). (Exhibit F.)

8. I have followed with interest the pending CVRA lawsuit challenging the City of Santa Monica’s at-large election system for City Council. Throughout this litigation, I have publicly supported the City’s position in favor of at-large voting in the City of Santa Monica.

9. Earlier this year, in my capacity as a board member for the HRC, I became aware that various organizations (including HRC) were considering filing an Amicus Brief supporting the City's position concerning at-large voting in this lawsuit. As a member of the HRC Board of Directors, I voted to support the HRC's participation as an Amicus Curiae, subject to HRC reviewing and approving the Amicus Brief. This HRC vote took place after extended discussion and review of preliminary drafts of the Amicus Brief.

10. As a CEPS Steering Committee member, I also learned that CEPS had decided to participate as an Amicus Curiae in this lawsuit.

11. During the Amicus Brief's preparation and review, I discussed this case with Antonio Vazquez. Like me, Mr. Vazquez is a former member of the Santa Monica City Council (1990-94 and 2012-19) and a former mayor (2015-16). Mr. Vazquez was elected to and currently serves as a board member on the State Board of Equalization. Mr. Vazquez has long been recognized as Santa Monica's foremost Latino political leader.

12. Mr. Vazquez supports the City of Santa Monica's at-large election system for City Council (and other elected bodies).

13. Together, Mr. Vazquez and I decided to form the Alliance, an unincorporated association, in order to participate as an Amicus Curiae and support the Amicus Brief then under preparation. We did so because we share an opinion that Latino and Black voters in Santa Monica have greater voting power under the City's at-large election system than would be the case with district elections. This opinion is grounded in our personal experience in Santa Monica elections, our conversations with other Latino and Black community activists and leaders, and our review of City election results for City Council as well as other Santa Monica elected bodies (including the School Board and the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees) since the CVRA was adopted in 2002.

14. We believe our position is shared by the vast majority of Latino and Black civic and community leaders in Santa Monica. This belief is supported by past election results where Santa Monica's voters have twice rejected ballot measures that would have imposed district elections for Santa Monica City Council. Most recently, in 2002, Santa Monica's voters rejected by an overwhelming margin Measure HH that would have established district elections.

15. The Alliance is an *ad hoc* group formed for the specific purpose of participating as an Amicus Curiae in this case. The Alliance consists of approximately 25-30 Latino and Black

community leaders and voters. Mr. Vazquez and I formed the Alliance because we believe it is very important for the Court to consider this case from the perspective of Latino and Black community leaders with extensive on-the-ground experience in Santa Monica. Mr. Vazquez and I (and the other Alliance members) are strong supporters of voting rights and the empowerment of Latino and Black voters.

16. In agreeing to participate as an Amicus Curiae, the Alliance was an active participant in the process involving circulation, review and editing of multiple drafts of the Amicus Brief. This process involved extensive revisions during the drafting process. At the culmination of this process, all four organizations (including the Alliance) agreed to its contents.

17. In our Amicus Brief, the Alliance and the three other Amici argue for a 20-year perspective on Santa Monica election results to assess the voting power of protected class voters (this case focuses on Latino voters). Since 2002, Latino voters have successfully elected Latino-preferred candidates and Latino candidates at a higher percentage than the percentage of Latino voters in Santa Monica. (*See* Amicus Brief, Appendices B and C.) At present, the Santa Monica City Council (the focus of this lawsuit) now has four Latino members out of seven councilmembers overall: Oscar de la Torre, Christine Parra, Gleam Davis and Lana Negrete (who was recently appointed to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Kevin McKeown). Together with Councilmember Kristin McCowan, who is Black, the Santa Monica City Council now has five of seven protected-class members (71.4%) in comparison to a voting population consisting of less than 12% protected-class voters.

18. The Alliance is especially concerned that imposition of district elections in Santa Monica would reduce representation of protected-classes (in particular, Latinos and potentially Blacks). At present, Councilmembers de la Torre (Latino), Parra (Latino), and McCowan (Black) all reside in the Pico Neighborhood District ordered by the trial court. If this order is allowed to stand, two of these three protected-class councilmembers will lose their seats. In a recent Amicus Brief filed with this Court, the Attorney General's Office expressed concern with such a result that would be contrary to the purpose of the CVRA:

"The court should also consider whether alternative systems would instead *harm* the protected class. For instance, if multiple members of the protected class on a governing body come from the same district, a district electoral system may in fact lead to less influence

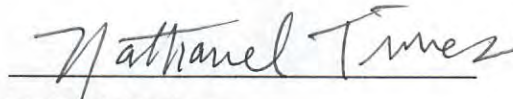
on the protected class's part. It is not likely that an existing at-large system has 'impaired' a protected class's ability to influence elections if the alternatives would result in less influence."

(Attorney General's Amicus Brief at p. 26.)

19. Mr. Vazquez and I are troubled that plaintiffs (through their counsel) are questioning the Alliance's legitimacy, speculating without any basis that the Alliance "may have been conjured up" by counsel for the Amici. It is quite apparent to Mr. Vazquez and me that plaintiffs are seeking to silence the Alliance because we have a different point of view than plaintiffs about how best to achieve Latino and Black voting power and representation in Santa Monica.

20. Mr. Vazquez and I, and the Alliance's other members, ask the Court to deny plaintiffs' motion to strike and consider the merits of our Amicus Brief's arguments in the course of addressing the question presented for review.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this Declaration is executed on the 17th day of July, 2021 in Santa Monica, California.



Nathaniel Trives

DECLARATION OF JOHN MACERI

I, John Maceri, declare the following to be true and correct:

1. I am the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Human Relations Council, Santa Monica Bay Area (“HRC”), a non-profit organization composed of community organizations, institutions, businesses, and individuals that promotes a culture of fair treatment, inclusion and equal access to opportunities (<http://hrcsantamonica.org/about-us/>). The HRC was formed by a group of concerned community members and organizations in 2004 after the Santa Monica chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) closed in 2003.¹ (*Id.*)

2. In addition to my role as HRC Chair, I serve as the CEO of The People Concern, one of the largest housing and social services agencies in the County of Los Angeles. (<https://www.thepeopleconcern.org/about/>) The People Concern was formed in a merger in 2016 between two of the most well-established non-profit social service agencies in Los Angeles, the Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC) and Lamp

¹ In his motion, Plaintiff’s counsel implies that HRC was somehow “conjured-up” by Chris Harding and Joseph Pertel, two local attorneys who prepared the Amicus Brief on a volunteer basis on behalf of the League of Woman Voters of Santa Monica, the Alliance of Santa Monica Latino and Black Voters, the Community for Excellent public Schools (CEPS), and HRC. This is simply absurd. The “Human Relation Council, Santa Monica Bay Area” instantly appears at the top of searches conducted on the internet. (Exhibit G.) The HRC is listed in the business directory of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. (<https://members.smchamber.com/list/member/human-relations-council-santa-monica-bay-area-33671>; Exhibit H.) The HRC has also appeared in frequent newspaper articles and community announcements throughout Santa Monica since 2003. (Exhibit I.) In addition, HRC maintains a blog, Facebook page and Instagram account to remain connected with the local Santa Monica community. (<http://hrcsantamonica.org/blog/>, https://www.instagram.com/hrc_santamonica/, and <https://www.facebook.com/HumanRelationsCouncilSantaMonica/>.)

Community. The People Concern is a leading advocate and provider of housing and services for the homeless and victims of domestic violence, including street outreach, interim housing, mental and medical health care, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence services, life skills and wellness programs, and permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals and survivors of domestic violence. (*Id.*)

3. The Board of Directors of HRC is composed of twenty-seven (27) diverse and committed community leaders, including, Dr. Jody Priselac, Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Information Services at UCLA; Deb Farmer, President and CEO of the Westside Family Health Center; Eric Shafer, Senior Pastor, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica; Ana Maria Jara, former Santa Monica City Councilmember and community activist; Julie Rusk, former Chief of Civic Wellbeing for the City of Santa Monica; Janet Gollery McKeithen, Senior Pastor, Church in Santa Monica; Stephanie Cohen, District Director for Los Angeles County Supervisor and former member of the State Assembly and Senate Sheila Kuehl; Nat Trives, former Santa Monica City Councilmember and Mayor; Tara Pomposini, CEO of the Santa Monica Family YMCA, and Captain Thomas McLaughlin, Santa Monica Police Department. (<http://hrcsantamonica.org/board-of-directors/>; Exhibit J.)

4. HRC maintains long-standing relationships with leading institutions in the Santa Monica community with the goal of collaborating and expanding programs that support our core mission of creating a more just, equitable, and humane society, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition, the Westside Interfaith Council, the Santa Monica Baha'i Center, the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District, the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica, the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica College, and the Public Policy Institute at Santa Monica College.

5. The HRC sponsors a variety of community programming, including our most recent initiative, the Santa Monica Wellbeing Microgrant Program, which provides targeted grants to local Santa Monica residents to take direct, small-scale actions to improve our community. Recent grant recipients include projects supporting COVID-19

relief, senior citizen care packages, youth entrepreneurship, election awareness for the Santa Monica Ethiopian community, improved voter access, and the Westside Black Lives Film Exposition. ([http://hrcsantamonica.org/programs/civic-wellbeing-partners/.](http://hrcsantamonica.org/programs/civic-wellbeing-partners/))

6. The HRC also hosts “Community Dialogues ” organized by HRC’s Civility Committee, with topics ranging from “Community Justice Center: Resolving Community Conflicts” to a two-day conference in coordination with the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District on “Dialogues for Race.” ([http://hrcsantamonica.org/community-dialogues-table-talk/.](http://hrcsantamonica.org/community-dialogues-table-talk/)) HRC also sponsors “Kids with Cameras Program” (now known as “Arts for Social Justice”) with local youth organizations in Santa Monica to increase participation in their neighborhoods and communities through photography and other art forms. ([http://hrcsantamonica.org/kids-with-cameras/.](http://hrcsantamonica.org/kids-with-cameras/)) Finally, HRC holds the annual Mark J. Benjamin Community Impact Awards ceremony which recognizes individuals who, through their behavior and commitment, are role models for a respectful and just community and whose involvement with community organizations as a volunteer contributes to and impacts building an inclusive community.” ([http://hrcsantamonica.org/impact-2/.](http://hrcsantamonica.org/impact-2/))

7. HRC is an all-volunteer organization registered with the State of California as a non-profit organization. We recently learned that we inadvertently failed to file all of the necessary paperwork to maintain our status. We are working diligently to correct this oversight.

8. The HRC Board of Directors was directly involved in the decision to file an amicus brief in this case with several other respected community organizations, including the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica, the Alliance of Santa Monica Latino and Black Voters, and the Community for Excellent Public Schools. The HRC Board was actively involved in the process of reviewing and editing drafts of the Amicus Brief and unanimously voted to support its filing in this case.

9. HRC is a multi-racial organization that views diversity as a vital community asset. HRC supports diverse and inclusive representation in all of our community’s

institutions, including the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica's other elected boards. We believe that Santa Monica has achieved significant success in ensuring the voting power for Latino and Black voters and electing candidates of their choice, as reflected in the current composition of the Santa Monica City Council, which includes four Latino councilmembers and one Black councilmember out of seven total councilmember seats.

10. With respect to the Alliance, I have personally known Nat Trives for many years. He has served as a member of the HRC Board of Directors and is a well-known and highly-respected member of the Santa Monica Community. In fact, Mr. Trives is frequently described as "Mr. Santa Monica" for his decades of distinguished service to our local community. (<https://smmirror.com/2007/01/nat-trives-a-former-mayor-looks-back/>.) Candidly, I am quite shocked and disappointed that Plaintiff's counsel would attempt to silence Mr. Trives' voice or the voices of other distinguished Black and Latino leaders in our community, including Tony Vasquez, who has also provided a life-time of service to Santa Monica.

I declare the forgoing to be true and correct under penalty of perjury. Executed this 17th day of July 2021, at Santa Monica, California.



John Maceri

DECLARATION OF DEBBIE MULVANEY

I, Debbie Mulvaney, declare the following to be true and correct:

1. I am the Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee and Steering Committee of the Community for Excellent Public Schools (“CEPS”), a non-profit political action committee (registered with the City of Santa Monica) that has supported state and local funding measures for public education, as well as endorsed candidates for the Santa Monica City Council, the Santa Monica College (“SMC”) Board of Trustees, and the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District (“SMMUSD”) Board of Education for nearly twenty (20) years. CEPS has more than 750 members in the Cities of Santa Monica and Malibu.

2. CEPS is composed of a steering committee of twenty-four (24) actively-involved citizens who share a vision and commitment to excellence in public schools from early childhood through post-secondary education.¹ (<http://www.excellentpublicschools.org>; Exhibit K.²) The chair of CEPS is Shari Davis, Co-Director of the Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute and Adjunct Professor of Political Science at SMC. (<https://www.smc.edu/directory/davis-shari.php>) Professor Davis is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School, where she earned a Master’s degree in Public Policy, co-chaired the

¹ In addition, CEPS has nine additional *ex officio* members of the organization, including past and present Santa Monica College Trustees Barry Snell and Louise Jaffe, Ph.D., SMMUSD Board members Jennifer Smith, Jon Kean, Laurie Lieberman and Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Ph.D., Santa Monica City Councilmember and former Mayor Gleam Davis, Harry Keiley, past president of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District Classroom Teachers Association and current chair of the California Teachers Association Political Involvement Committee and the Board of CalSTRS, as well as Nat Trives, former two-term Santa Monica City Councilmember and Santa Monica’s first Black mayor.

² Community for Excellent Public Schools and CEPS can be found through a quick internet search, with results including the entity’s website (www.excellentpublicschools.org), community blog, Facebook page, press releases, and local newspaper articles concerning the organization’s activities over the past two decades. (Exhibit L.)

Kennedy School's student government, and served on Harvard's Institute of Politics Student Advisory Committee.

3. I have been a member of the CEPS Steering Committee for seventeen (17) years and Treasurer for the past seven (7) years. I am the principal of Mulvaney Business Advisors. I have an MBA in Finance from New York University. I serve as treasurer for several non-profit organizations and have served as the Administrator of the Santa Monica Malibu Parent Teachers Association (PTA) Council's Summer Adventure educational programming for more than twenty (20) years. In addition, I served as one of the three appointed Santa Monica representatives for the Malibu Unification Negotiating Committee, which served for 18 months along with three Malibu representatives (for the first meeting, Plaintiff's counsel, Mr. Shenkman, was one of those representatives) to facilitate the process of separating the Malibu public schools from SMMUSD.

4. Since 2003, CEPS has been the face of public education advocacy in the Santa Monica community for our local schools. The following is a brief overview of its public activities and accomplishments:

- a. In January 2003, CEPS helped organize 1000+ parents and students to march through Santa Monica City Council chambers during public comments to show strength of the public education community;
- b. In June 2003, CEPS organized a large rally on the lawn of Santa Monica City Hall to urge the City Council to approve long-term, reliable funding to support the local school district which faced a \$13 million budget shortfall due to severe state-wide budget cuts in education;
- c. CEPS convened numerous public meetings to discuss proposing an Amendment to the City Charter to provide a permanent and reliable funding stream to the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District to support public schools;

d. CEPS filed a petition to amend the City Charter, raised more than \$100,000, and gathered more than 15,000 signatures to place the budgetary proposal to support local schools on the November 2004 ballot;³

e. In response to the petition, the City of Santa Monica and SMMUSD reached an agreement that provided \$6 million per year in financial support to the local schools from the City's general revenues;

f. In 2004, CEPS initiated and partnered with the California State PTA to organize "Caravan for Kids," a two-day, 8-city media event, bus caravan from all parts of the State, and rallied on the steps of the State Capitol to protest the Governor's \$2 billion budget grab of funds to statewide public education (Exhibit N);⁴

³ On May 5, 2004, the *Malibu Times* published a front-page article titled "Santa Monica School Funding Deal Could Prevent Divisive Election." (https://www.malibutimes.com/news/article_80391884-04a1-546d-bacb-5a46d36cf07d.html; Exhibit M.) In the article's introduction, the newspaper states that "[a] group called CEPS has gathered enough signatures to put an item on the ballot that would guarantee \$6 million of annual funding from Santa Monica to the school district. Malibu residents form local Malibu group." (*Id.*) Plaintiff's counsel, Kevin Shenkman, who claims no knowledge of CEPS, is a long-time Malibu resident.

⁴ In an article published in the *Santa Monica Outlook* on April 28, 2004, the founder and former president of Mr. Shenkman's client, the Pico Neighborhood Association ("PNA"), current Santa Monica City Councilmember Oscar de la Torre, who was elected to five terms on the SMMUSD Board of Education, was quoted in the concluding paragraph of this article on the success of CEPS' "Caravan for Kids," stating, "'The good people of Santa Monica are known for progressive politics. This will go down in history as a highlight of our collective activism.' De la Torre reflected while walking to his car after the downtown rally." (Exhibit O, p. 4.) Mr. de la Torre also reportedly travelled from Santa Monica to Sacramento as part of the CEPS bus caravan to participate in its rally on the steps of the capitol. (*Id.*)

g. In 2005, CEPS co-hosted a forum with the RAND Institute on California's K-12 funding in Santa Monica;

h. In 2006, CEPS organized its first annual "State of Our Schools" events throughout Santa Monica and Malibu to showcase and report on SMMUSD's academic achievements, financial status, and futures challenges;

i. In 2007, CEPS successfully lobbied the Santa Monica City Council to increase its annual financial support to SMMUSD to more than \$7.5 million per year;

j. In 2007, CEPS leadership served as core *ad hoc* members of a committee to place an initiative on the February 2008 ballot to renew parcel taxes supporting SMMUSD that were set to expire. CEPS raised \$275,000, produced numerous pieces of direct mail, and organized a massive voter outreach effort with hundreds of volunteers which resulted in the overwhelming passage of the measure. This successful ballot measure guaranteed \$11 million per year in permanent funding, plus annual cost of living adjustments, for SMMUSD;

k. In 2009, CEPS leaders testified before the Santa Monica City Council in support of \$81 million in redevelopment funding for the Santa Monica "Civic Center Joint Use Project," which the City subsequently approved;

l. In 2010, CEPS actively supported two local propositions to generate funds for SMMUSD to help weather the state's financial crisis. The campaign was co-chaired by CEPS Chair Shari Davis and Steering Committee member Tom Larmore, while two additional CEPS Steering Committee members, Rebecca Kennerly and Chris Harding, helped raise \$375,000 to support the campaign, which passed overwhelmingly during the November, 2010 election.

5. As the result of its advocacy over nearly twenty years,⁵ CEPS helped generate over \$35 million per year in additional public school funding for SMMUSD, which represents

⁵ "Decade of Advocacy Strengthens Ties," *Santa Monica Mirror*, Nov. 1, 2011 (Exhibit P; <https://smmirror.com/2011/11/a-decade-of-advocacy-and-bold-partnerships-help-strengthen-city-and-schools-op-ed/>.)

over 20% of the school district's annual budget. This represents more than \$400 million in additional funding over the past seventeen (17) years from efforts supported and backed by CEPS leaderships, its members, as well as their financial contributions and grassroots volunteer efforts.

6. Since 2004, CEPS has hosted "Candidates Forums" to provide numerous opportunities for voters to hear City Council, SMC College Board, and SMMUSD School Board candidates' views on supporting public education. Since that time, CEPS has endorsed and supported candidates for these elected positions. CEPS is proud of its track record of helping to elect racially-diverse candidates to local public office, including Santa Monica City Councilmembers Tony Vazquez, Ana Maria Jara, Gleam Davis, and Kristin McCowan, Santa Monica College Board of Trustees Dr. Margaret Quinones-Perez and Barry Snell, and SMMUSD Board of Education members Maria Leon-Vazquez, Jose Escarce, Oscar de la Torre, and Keith Coleman.

7. As mentioned, the founder and former president of Mr. Shenkman's client, the Pico Neighborhood Association (as well as the spouse of Mr. Shenkman's other client in this case, Maria Loya), has participated in numerous CEPS events over the past twenty years. For example, in September, 2010, Mr. de la Torre sought the political endorsement from CEPS for his reelection campaign to the SMMUSD Board of Education. As part of this process, Mr. de la Torre publicly appeared at a CEPS voter forum. Shortly thereafter, the *Santa Monica Outlook* ran a news article entitled "Education Activist Groups Makes Elections Endorsements" in which CEPS endorsed three incumbent school board members, including Mr. de la Torre:

"CEPS support is 'a vote of confidence for the direction and positive moves currently underway within the District . . . Each of these incumbents has a strong role to play in Special Education reform, guiding the District through its recent budget crises and helping develop the focus and goals of the District, which has just seen a significant rise in student test scores'." (Exhibit Q.)

The news article concluded by stating, “CEPS is the most powerful education activist group in Santa Monica . . . It was behind the 2004 push to greatly increase funding from the City to Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.”⁶ (*Id.*, emphasis added.)

8. As Treasurer for CEPS, I am responsible for periodically filing financial disclosures mandated by the City of Santa Monica and California’s Political Reform Act.⁷ In the past seven (7) years, I have filed these disclosure forms for CEPS with the City of Santa Monica. According to the City of Santa Monica, CEPS has filed financial disclosure forms on 118 occasions since 2004.⁸ (Exhibit R.)

9. I have been generally aware of Plaintiff’s counsel, Kevin Shenkman, for about six years. As part of the Malibu Unification Negotiating Committee (MUNC), where I, along with two others, represented Santa Monica, Tom Larmore and I identified ourselves as long-time Steering Committee members of CEPS. Mr. Shenkman was one of three people in the room representing Malibu during this first meeting. As there were only seven people in total in the room, it strains credibility to believe that Mr. Shenkman did not hear Mr. Larmore or me specifically describe our longstanding association with CEPS. (Mr. Shenkman was

⁶ In 2004, CEPS sent Plaintiff Maria Loya an invitation to be considered for an endorsement in support of her campaign for the Board of Trustees for Santa Monica College. Ms. Loya did not respond to the invitation.

⁷ CEPS is registered with the City of Santa Monica as “Community for Excellent Public Schools,” Committee Identification Number 1243108. (Exhibit R.)

⁸ The City of Santa Monica maintains a “Public Access Portal” which allows residents and other interested parties to search for information concerning political action committees, including CEPS, by organization name, committee identification number, filing date(s), independent expenditure, and/or contributions. (<https://public.netfile.com/pub2/?aid=CSM>.) It takes only a moment to locate a Santa Monica-based political action committee using this user-friendly service. (*Id.*) The California Secretary of State also provides a convenient link to the City of Santa Monica’s campaign disclosure website at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying/cal-access-resources/city-and-county-electronic-filings>. (Exhibit S, p. 2.)

subsequently removed from the Malibu negotiating team by the Malibu City Council as they were concerned that he was more focused on this lawsuit than his role of helping Malibu separate from SMMUSD.)

10. Members of the CEPS Steering Committee, including myself, were actively involved in the process of reviewing and editing drafts of the Amicus Brief filed in this case on CEPS' behalf, as well as on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica ("League"), the Human Relations Council – Santa Monica Bay Area ("HRC"), and the Alliance of Santa Monica Latino and Black Voters ("Alliance").

11. As a long-time resident and active member of the Santa Monica community, I am very familiar with the leadership and work of the League (of which I am a member in good standing) and HRC, as well as the Alliance, which was formed in response to this action by former Santa Monica City Councilmembers Nat Trives and Tony Vasquez, both of whom I have known for more than twenty-five years and who have decades of knowledge and experience working in Santa Monica's local community.

12. CEPS and I share the view of the League, HRC, and the Alliance that Santa Monica's Latino and Black voters have greater power and influence under the City's at-large election system than they would under a district-based election system, as seen by the success of Latino and Black voters in electing candidates of their choices, including, for example, Santa Monica's City Council which currently has four Latino Councilmembers (Christine Parra, Gleam Davis, Oscar de la Torre, and Lana Negrete) and one Black Councilmember, Kristin McCowan, i.e., five of seven elected positions (71%) on the City Council.

I declare the forgoing to be true and correct under penalty of perjury. Executed this 15th day of July 2021, at Santa Monica, California.

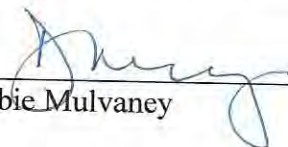

Debbie Mulvaney

Exhibit A

Serving the people of Santa Monica, Malibu, California

- ★ SANTA MONICA
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- ★ JOIN
- ★ ISSUES
- ★ STUDIES
- ★ VOTER RESOURCES
- ★ ACTION ALERTS
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Registering voters on the 3rd Street Promenade

Members of the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica register voters on the Third Street Promenade

[Check out our Facebook page for more photos!](#)

Santa Monica

Celebrating more than 80 years of local and active civic engagement!



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government. We do not endorse either political parties or candidates running for office but seek to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

A - 1



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Exhibit B

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Santa Monica Celebrating more than 80 years of local and active civic engagement! The **League of Women Voters** is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government.

LWV Of Santa Monica | League of Women Voters

[www.lwv.org](#) › [local-leagues](#) › [lwv-santa-monica](#)

The **League of Women Voters** of California, Campaign Legal Center (CLC), Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), and Common Cause submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) in *Americans for Prosperity Foundation v. Becerra*.

League of Women Voters of Santa Monica - GuideStar Profile

[www.guidestar.org](#) › [profile](#) › 95-6098598

The **League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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League of Women Voters of Santa Monica, Santa Monica, CA (2021)

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Apr 26, 2021 · **Santa Monica**, CA. **League of Women Voters of Santa Monica**. The **League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. (6)

Location: Santa Monica, 90406 **Phone:** (310) 564-6946

Images for League Of Women Voters Of Santa Monica



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Announcement: Filing of Amicus Brief in CVRA Case | MyLO

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Announcement: Filing of Amicus Brief in CVRA Case

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Type: Public Statement

Date of Release or Mention: Monday, June 7, 2021

The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica (LWVSM), together with the Alliance of Santa Monica Latino and Black Voters, the Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area (HRC), and Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) have filed an Amicus Brief in support of the City of Santa Monica ("City") in the California Supreme Court's review of the Pico Neighborhood Association, Maria Loya v. City of Santa Monica regarding the application of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA).

The LWVSM strongly believes in the CVRA and its mission to protect the equal voting rights of marginalized and disenfranchised communities, legally referred to as protected-class voters.

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- **We believe that the remedy sought in this lawsuit will not resolve the issues raised by the Plaintiffs in a way that further empowers Latino voters in Santa Monica.**
- **The CVRA was not intended to be a one-size-fits-all solution in its application and it was not intended to mandate the abolition of at-large election systems, as confirmed by its author during the legislative process for the law.**

Santa Monica is a community of strong and varied values willing to speak out on the many issues that need addressing in our community. And we live in a country that has become increasingly polarized, to the extent that the right of Americans to vote and have their votes counted has come under threat. Bills have been introduced in more than half of America's state legislatures with the not-so-subtle intent of suppressing the vote of African Americans and other people of color.

About the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica

The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica (LWVSM) is a nonpartisan political organization established in 1934 that seeks to support informed and active participation in government. We do not endorse (or oppose) either political parties or candidates running for office, but we seek to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The LWVSM is a part of the League of Women Voter of LA County (LWV/LAC), the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC), and the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWV).

The right to vote and have that vote count is fundamental to the mission of the League of Women Voters. As an organization, we have fought for over 100 years to ensure that citizens of voting age have the unfettered right to vote and the right to have that vote counted. One example among many: We stated our belief very publicly when our state president signed the ballot arguments in favor of Proposition 43

([https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_43,_Constitutional_Right_to_Have_One%27s_Vote_Counted_Amendment_\(March_2002\)\)](https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_43,_Constitutional_Right_to_Have_One%27s_Vote_Counted_Amendment_(March_2002))), a Constitutional amendment placed on the 2002 California ballot by the legislature. It was approved by the voters and made the following language a Constitutional right of the people: *A voter who casts a vote in an election in accordance with the laws of this State shall have that vote counted.*^[1] (https://ballotpedia.org/Article_II,_California_Constitution#cite_note-ca-1). The League, at every level, promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. We support electoral systems that elect policymaking bodies—legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards—that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that inhibit political manipulation (e.g. gerrymandering and other forms of vote dilution, including voter suppression).

We believe that standards for fair electoral systems should include protection from diluting the voting strength of a racial or linguistic minority. Furthermore, any system adopted should produce fair and accurate community representation reflecting the diversity (racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, gender, etc.) of the community; should increase voter participation and maximize effective votes.

Why we're signing onto this Amicus Brief

In this specific case, the plaintiffs allege that the City of Santa Monica has discriminated against Latino voters through maintaining at-large elections, that Santa Monica's current at-large election system has prevented Latino voters in Santa Monica from electing their preferred candidates to office by diluting their voting power, and that the City should move to district-based elections for City Council with a specific carved out district in the Pico neighborhood that would include approximately 30% of the City's Latino voters.

The CVRA is intended to protect the equal voting rights of marginalized and disenfranchised communities by outlining the elements that demonstrate a violation of the law. However, not all of the elements are clearly defined in the language of the law and some were intended to use definitions as laid out in the Federal Voting Rights Act.

The California Supreme Court has chosen to take up review of this case to determine "What must a Plaintiff prove in order to establish vote dilution under the California Voting Rights Act?"

We have signed onto this amicus brief because we believe that the appropriate baseline for vote dilution should be rough proportionality. In order to determine whether protected class voters have had their votes diluted, the appropriate measurement should be whether protected class voters are able to elect candidates of their choice in proportion to their representation in the community.

We do not believe the remedy sought in this lawsuit will resolve the issues raised by the Plaintiffs in a way that further empowers Latino voters in Santa Monica. Latino voters are approximately 13.6% of the voting population in Santa Monica, but Latino/Latino surnamed candidates made up 22.2% of the winning City Council candidates from 2002-2020 through the current at-large election system. Additionally, a move from our current at-large system to district-based elections as proposed by the plaintiffs would lead to less

representation compared to the City’s current situation as three (3) of the current protected class City Council members all reside in the proposed “Pico Neighborhood District.” The proposed remedy would also have the effect of reducing the ability of the remaining 70% of Latino (and other protected class) voters outside of this district to influence elections.

As this lawsuit would impact elections, voters, the Santa Monica community, and government-related processes, the LWVSM Board of Directors decided that we needed to speak out. Based on the findings and the applicability of numerous League positions and the history of our deep and active involvement in fighting for all voters to have fair representation, the LWVSM board of directors unanimously voted to sign onto this Amicus Brief.

What We See Moving Forward

Systemic racism has been and still is a problem in Santa Monica, as it is throughout California and the nation. We recognize the harms that have been perpetuated against marginalized and disenfranchised people in our community, including the displacement of Latino and Black/African-American families in the construction of the 10 Freeway, the racist exclusionary zoning policies that prevented non-white Santa Monicans from living in certain areas of the city for decades, and restrictive racial covenants that aimed to prevent non-white residents from purchasing, renting, or residing in homes in certain neighborhoods, and other discriminatory measures perpetuated by existing systems of power.

We believe in a Santa Monica where all Santa Monicans have the access and the opportunity to be informed, active participants in local government. There is much more work to do to ensure an equitable Santa Monica for all, but moving to district elections as proposed would not be a step in the right direction. Looking at potential outcomes, district elections would result in less representation and reverse the strides our community has made over the last two – three decades in increasing the representation of Latino and other protected class voters in the City.

We encourage everyone reading (or listening to) this statement to take the time to read the brief. Don’t rely on other people’s interpretations or talking points. It is part of our mission to encourage informed engagement, and this is no different.

~~~~~

You can read the full Amicus Brief [here](https://www.santamonica.gov/Media/Default/Attorney/Election/2021.6.7_Brief%20of%20SM%20League%20Women%20Voters%20et%20al)  
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**Issues referenced by this article:**

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# Exhibit D

# Santa Monica LOOKOUT

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## Santa Monica Announces Appointments to Police Reform Advisory Committee

By Lookout Staff

July 10, 2020 -- The City's first Black Councilmember, the two top local NAACP officials, two Santa Monica police officers and a dozen activists, residents and service providers have been selected to serve on the City's new Public Safety Reform Advisory Committee.

The Committee -- whose 15 members were chosen by Interim City Manager Lane Dilg -- will review proposals and recommend public safety reforms "for both use of force and invest/divest strategies," City officials said.

"Each of the appointees is committed to ensuring that the City follows best practices for creating a community in which all feel and are safe," Dilg said in a statement announcing the appointments Friday.

"Together, they bring relevant knowledge and expertise as advocates for racial justice, residents, business owners, law enforcement officers with a commitment to public safety reform, mental health providers, and social services providers."

The committee includes former mayor Nat Trives, who became the first Black Councilmember in 1971, and Darrell Goode and Rebecca Lantry, president and vice-president respectively of the Santa Monica/Venice branch of the NAACP.

Santa Monica police officers Darnell Crumpler, a volunteer with the Ploice Activities League (PAL), and Erika Aklufi, a member of the homeless outreach team, were also appointed, along with Robbie Jones and Angela Scott, members of the Committee for Racial Justice.

The committee also includes three counselors and social service workers -- Shuli Lotan, mental health counseling coordinator for the School District; Rasika Flores, a case manager at St. Joseph's Youth Resource Center, and Liz Cruz, a licensed clinical social worker.

George Brown, co-author of the "New Era of Public Safety" report for the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Downtown property owner Wally Marks and residents Michael Shotton, Ralinda Harvey Smith and Marc Morgenstern, president of the Ocean Park Association, were also appointed.

"Working together with City staff, the committee will first facilitate a community input process, and review local, regional, and national proposals advocating for changes to policing and the ways that cities conceive of and allocate funds to achieve public safety," City officials said.



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After gathering information, the committee will make recommendations to the Interim City Manager regarding reforms to SMPD's use of force policies and changes that should be made to the City's budget, "informed by calls for divest and invest strategies, to better achieve public safety and wellbeing for all in our community."



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# Exhibit E

[Metropolitan News-Enterprise](#)

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Page 1

## **Assembly Speaker Appoints Ex-Santa Monica Mayor to CJP**

By STEVEN M. ELLIS, Staff Writer

Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez has appointed Nathaniel “Nat” Trives to the Commission on Judicial Performance.

A former mayor of Santa Monica with a background in law enforcement and education, Trives began his term as a public member of the commission yesterday.

“Nathaniel Trives has had a distinguished career in public service, law, and academia,” Núñez, D-Los Angeles, said. “The Commission on Judicial Performance – and all Californians who value an impartial and ethical judiciary – will benefit from his insights.”

“My life has been filled with this kind of work,” Trives told the MetNews. “It’s an area that needs dedicated people to have a look, see what’s going on, and keep things dedicated and straight.”

Trives, 72, is currently retired. He began his career as an officer, and later supervisor, with the Santa Monica Police Department, and received a degree in political science from Santa Monica College, a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from California State University, Los Angeles and a master’s degree in public administration from UCLA.

He later became a professor of criminal justice at California State University, Los Angeles, where he taught for more than 20 years and served as a special master for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California overseeing a consent decree governing the resolution of race and gender bias issues in the San Francisco Police Department.

In 1975 Trives was elected to the Santa Monica City Council for a two-year term and served as mayor pro tem. He was re-elected in 1977 and served as mayor until 1979.

After leaving the council, Trives served on the personnel commissions of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District and Santa Monica College. He later joined the college’s administration as a deputy superintendent, and ultimately became its chief government relations officer before retiring in 1997.

A registered Democrat, Trives currently chairs California State University, Los Angeles’ Pat Brown Institute, a non-partisan public policy center dedicated to the living legacy of former Governor Edmund G. “Pat” Brown, and is active in a number of charitable organizations in the community.

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He has also served on the national boards of the National Urban League and the National Conference of Community and Justice; the national committees of the National Association of Independent Schools, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National League of Cities; and was a member and chair of the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training and the Los Angeles Regional Criminal Justice Planning Board, and a member of the Southern California Association of Governments where he chaired the public safety committee.

The Commission on Judicial Performance is the independent state agency responsible for investigating complaints of judicial misconduct and judicial incapacity and for disciplining judges, pursuant to article VI, section 18 of the California Constitution.

It has the authority to remove, retire, suspend, publicly or privately admonish, or censure a judge, and its 11 members include three judges chosen by the Supreme Court, two lawyers appointed by the governor, and six laypersons, two of whom are chosen each by the governor, the Assembly speaker, and the Senate Rules Committee.

Members are appointed to four-year terms, and do not receive a salary but are reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses relating to commission business.

Trives was appointed to fill a vacant position whose term will conclude on March 1, 2009.

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# Exhibit F



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# HRC Board of Directors



Meet the individuals that make up the HRC Board of Directors and the community organizations, institutions and businesses that they represent.

## HRC BOARD CHAIR

### John Maceri, Executive Director, The People Concern

John Maceri is the Executive Director of The People Concern. With more than fifty-six years of work in the community, The People Concern empowers the most vulnerable among us to rebuild their lives. As a long-time community volunteer, John served on the board of the Business Alliance of Los Angeles as a member, Vice President and two-term President. He is a Past Chair of the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition, and served as a member of the Board of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. John is a past Vice President of the Board of North Valley Caring Services, and a former member of the governing board of the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation.

## HRC BOARD PAST CHAIR

### Dr. Karen S. Gunn, Community Member/Business Owner

Dr. Karen S. Gunn is a psychologist with over thirty years of experience working as a consultant and educator in the public and private sectors. Her expertise lies in organizational, management and program development, leadership skills, cross-cultural and diversity issues, interpersonal communication and human relations. Dr. Gunn was a tenured faculty member in the Psychology Department at Santa Monica College and served as department chair during that time. Dr. Gunn has served as a board member for national and local organizations as well as non-profit agencies. Dr. Gunn served as the prior Human Relations Council Board Chair.

## HRC BOARD VICE CHAIRS

### Donna Gentry, Owner, Gentry Group

Donna is an independent consultant providing marketing communications and special event services for over 25 years to non-profit organizations, business and government. She is an active volunteer and in addition to the HRC, her volunteer efforts present and past include: Board member of the Police Activities League (PAL); OPCC (now The People Concern), Westside Family Health Center, Pico Improvement Organization and the City of Santa Monica's Buy Local Committee. Her website [santamonicabayevents.net](http://santamonicabayevents.net) is offered as a community service whereby local non-profit organizations may have their events posted free of charge for promotion to the community.

### Dr. Jody Priselac, Associate Dean for Community Programs, UCLA

Jody Z. Priselac is one of the founding Directors of the HRC in 2004 and has been a

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member ever since. She has served as Vice Chair and Chair of the HRC Board. Dr. Priselac is the Associate Dean for Community Programs in UCLA's Graduate School of Education & Information Studies. She has over 30 years of experience as a mathematics educator, serving in many roles, including high school teacher, professional development leader, teacher educator, and educational researcher. Her research focuses on how to change teacher practice in mathematics in urban schools and partner with communities to advance equitable education.

#### **Mary Luthy, Retired Community Health Nurse**

For 20 years, Mary managed community health programs in downtown Los Angeles at California Hospital Medical Center, St. Vincent Medical Center and Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. For over 11 years, she served the Director of Community Benefits for at Providence Saint John's Health Center. The Community Benefits Department collaborated with government agencies and community organizations to better serve vulnerable populations. As Director, she served as the hospital liaison for the launch of Westside Respite Health Care with The People Concern, (formerly OPCC), Venice Family Clinic, and UCLA Santa Monica. She worked closely with Emergency Department medical staff, management and staff, case management, community health outreach, and community service providers to ensure the coordination and delivery of services to those experiencing homelessness and others in needed.

#### **HRC BOARD SECRETARY**

##### **Debra A. Farmer, President/CEO, Westside Family Health Center**

Debra A. Farmer has been President/CEO of Westside Family Health Center (WFHC) since 1999. Ms. Farmer has been a tireless health advocate at the local, state and national levels for women's health care and health care for the safety net. She is a board member of the California Primary Care Association (past board chair), the Westside Coalition – Hunger. Housing. Health and Clinic Mutual Insurance Company (current board president) and was formerly board chair of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County. Ms. Farmer's previous professional experiences include stints at The Ahmanson Foundation and Planned Parenthood Los Angeles.

#### **HRC BOARD TREASURER**

##### **Perry Roshan-Zamir, Community Member**

Perry Roshan-Zamir is the general counsel for Cabo Cantina and their group of restaurants and practices franchise law. He received his bachelors in Biomedical and Electrical Engineering from USC in 1989, his J.D. From Whittier College School of Law in 1992 and his Masters in Business Taxation from USC in 1996. Perry is a certified diving instructor, very well-traveled, and serves as the chairman of the board of directors of Reef Check, an international non-profit organization whose mission is to empower people to save our reefs and oceans. Perry also serves as a member of the board of directors of the Senior Arts Foundation, based in Los Angeles.

#### **HRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

##### **Ana Maria Jara, City of Santa Monica Council Member & Community Member**

Ana Maria Jara, a native from Guatemala, C. A. is a proud mother of four daughters, has six grandchildren. Has lived in Santa Monica for almost 40 years and worked at Santa Monica College for over 25 years. In January 2019, Ana was appointed to the Santa Monica City Council. Throughout her career, she has been a tireless advocate for smart and inclusive solutions to issues of inequality in Santa Monica. Ana has served on numerous boards and organizations playing a vital leadership role to impact the lives of youth and families in Santa Monica. Her first entry into civic engagement was as an advocate with The Quiet Minority. Since then, she has served on PTSA as a member and co-chair, participated as District Advisory Committee member for multiple groups, and co-founded various district-wide committees. Before being appointed to serve on the City Council, she served as Chair on the Commission of the Status of Women and the Social Services Commission.

##### **Cynthia Rose, Santa Monica Spoke**

Cynthia Rose is the Director of Santa Monica Spoke and co-founder of the Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance working to make Santa Monica a safer and better place to live, walk, bike, work, and play through community engagement, education and



encouragement. She is a dedicated community advocate focused on collaborations to establish policy and infrastructure for safer walking and biking as means for creating more environmentally sustainable, equitable and healthy community. In addition to her local advocacy, she is currently Board Chair of the California Bicycle Coalition and previous board member of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition and Sustainable Streets. Cynthia is a certified cycling instructor with the League of American Bicyclists.

#### **Donald J. Zelaya, City of Santa Monica Information Services**

Donald has been with the City of Santa Monica since 2015 in various departments and currently works for Information Services. Donald is a member of the Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE) network whose mission is to promote and institute equity in local government. He has long been involved in social justice efforts beginning from when he worked in an access and retention community center for historically underrepresented students. Donald is passionate about community empowerment and being an active community member. He currently serves on the City of Los Angeles, Sylmar Neighborhood Council where he chairs the outreach and community engagement committee. Donald holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from University of California, San Diego with a minors in Political Science and Urban Studies and Planning.

#### **Eric Shafer, Senior Pastor, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church**

The Rev. Eric C. Shafer is Senior Pastor at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica. He has helped open the Bruin Shelter (now called "Students4Students" Shelter) at Mt. Olive, the first shelter for homeless college students on the west coast and has been involved in the relaunch of the Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council. His previous positions include Senior Vice President for Odyssey Networks in New York City and Director of Communion for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Chicago. Shafer has taught in South Africa and Madagascar and made multiple trips to Jerusalem and the West Bank.

#### **Gary Avrech, Community Member/Business Owner**

Gary Avrech was born and raised in Southern California. He owns and operates Go Graphics & Printing Company, which he founded in 1982. He is the founder and Executive Director of Community Productions Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that assists other organizations that help those in immediate distress. He graduated from SMC and served as President of the Associated Students and Student Member of the SMC Board of Trustees. He has also served in many volunteer roles, including President and Member of the SMC General Advisory Board; Chair and Board Member of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition; Vice President and Board Member of the Santa Monica-Venice Branch of the NAACP; Chair and Member of the SMMUSD Intercultural Equity & Excellence District Advisory Committee.

#### **Janet Gollery McKeithen, Senior Pastor, Church In Ocean Park**

Janet Gollery McKeithen holds a Bachelors degree from Humboldt State University and a Master's of Divinity from CST. In her 20's, she was the Executive Director of SSP, a program where high school students help repair the homes of Native American families. In Inyo County, she worked with mothers who were addicted to Meth and directed the "Healthy Families" program. She is an ordained elder in the UMC, served as the Consultant for Immigration and Refugee Ministries, and has helped create Latch-Key programs, english classes, spanish classes, a senior citizen center and the Western Methodist Justice Movement. She is a founding member of the Committee for Racial Justice, and the President of the Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council. She is an Advisory Committee member for Climate Action Santa Monica, and has recently helped launch Young People Creating Change (YPCC). Janet was a member of the SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) for 10 years and currently serves on the GoSaMo Transportation Management Organization.

#### **Julie Rusk, Chief of City Wellbeing, City of Santa Monica**

Julie is the City of Santa Monica's first Chief of Civic Wellbeing. Throughout her career, she has spearheaded responsive government policy and innovations to



improve community outcomes through creative partnerships, social impact initiatives and civic engagement. In 2017, she created the City's first [Office of Civic Wellbeing](#) within the City Manager's Office after leading the City's winning government innovation proposal to develop a local wellbeing index from Bloomberg Philanthropies and Santa Monica's 2016 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health prize. Ms. Rusk was a 2016/17 Fellow with Business Alliance for a Local Living Economy (BALLE); was named to the 2017 List of 25 Top Influencers by Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL); and is currently a Senior Fellow with UCLA's Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities.

#### **Laura Rosenbaum, Community Member**

Laura is an active volunteer in Santa Monica, serving on the boards of the Human Relations Council and the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica. Professionally, she is director of retail banking marketing at OneWest Bank. She is the mother of two sons and two grandsons, and enjoys studying the earthworks and culture of the Hopewell Indians of Ohio.

#### **Lindsay Call, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Santa Monica**

Lindsay Call serves as the City of Santa Monica's Chief Resilience Officer, overseeing the City's Office of Emergency Management. Lindsay focuses on building the City's "community resilience" program to better prepare the local population to recover from events ranging from acute emergency incidents, like earthquakes, to long-term chronic challenges, such as climate change. Over the past ten years, Lindsay has served various public health and emergency management agencies, specializing in serving vulnerable populations. She has spent much of her life volunteering, including for Kansas City's ANYTOWN social justice youth program. Lindsay holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies from American University in Washington, DC and a Master's of Public Health from UCLA.

#### **Michele Wittig, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, CSUN**

Michele Wittig has been engaged in community organizing and activism since the 1960's at the University of Illinois, from which she received the Ph.D. in experimental psychology. During four decades as a CSUN professor, she taught research methods; published research on acculturation, prejudice reduction, justice and intergroup relations; and conducted program evaluations for human rights organizations. Her work in Santa Monica has addressed homelessness, educational opportunity and policing equity. She has been an expert witness on employment discrimination and a consultant to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Geneva) and to the British Red Cross.

#### **Misti Kerns, President/CEO, Santa Monica Travel and Tourism**

Misti Kerns, President/CEO of Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT), joined SMTT in 1997 and has served in her current role for 17 years and is a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) and a Certified Destination Management Executive (CDME). Kerns founded the 'I AM Santa Monica' program, which has certified over 3,000 local employees and community members as official Santa Monica ambassadors. She is an active member of the Santa Monica Human Relations Council, Santa Monica Pier Corporation Board of Directors and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and serves on local, state and national tourism boards. Kerns has been a resident of Santa Monica for over 22 years, and resides in the city by the sea with her husband and daughter.

#### **Nat Trives, Coalition for Engaged Education**

Nat arrived in Santa Monica in 1949 and he attended Lincoln Jr. High School, SAMOHI and SMC. He married Ida Smith on July 3, 1955 and they are the proud parents of Dr. Toni Trives, Chair of the Modern Language Department at SMC. She has two sons, Tristan and Tanner who are the center of the family's love and affection. Nat has enjoyed a wonderful career in public service as a member of SMPD, Professor Emeritus in Criminal Justice CSULA, former Mayor of Santa Monica, Deputy Superintendent at SMC and a volunteer on more than twenty NPO Boards.

**Natalya Zernitskaya, Community Member**

Natalya was born in Belarus and moved to San Francisco with her family as a child. After earning her Bachelor's degree in Economics from University of California, Santa Cruz, she decided to relocate to the Los Angeles area and found her community in Santa Monica. In addition to her full time job as a Due Diligence Analyst in the financial services industry, Natalya is currently the President of the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica; and has served as Treasurer and Webmaster for the organization in the past. She was also previously the Secretary of the Administrative Board of Directors for the Church in Ocean Park. Occasionally, she freelances as a Stage Manager for theatrical productions in the Los Angeles Area. Natalya is passionate about human rights and advocating for positive change in her community, with a particular focus on the issues of housing, social justice, and women's rights.

**Shawn Landres, Ph.D., Community Member**

Connecting people, ideas, and resources, Shawn Landres, Ph.D., has earned international recognition for his leadership in social innovation and interreligious engagement. A widely published essayist and editor whose work has been featured by the Obama White House and covered by TIME, the Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times, Shawn is the co-founder of Jumpstart Labs, an active partner in early-stage ventures and social enterprises, and Senior Fellow at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. Currently Chair of the Los Angeles County Quality & Productivity Commission and a member of the City of Santa Monica Planning Commission, Shawn and his family live in Santa Monica, where he also serves on the SMMUSD Financial Oversight Committee and the Airport2Park Foundation advisory board.

**Sheila Banani, Baha'i Community Member**

Sheila Banani has been a homeowner in Santa Monica since 1966. She is a graduate of UCLA, with a B.A. in Sociology and an M.A. in Urban Planning: Public Policy & Social Development. She was an elected member and Chair of Santa Monica Baha'i Assembly from 1966-2016. She taught Sociology at Santa Monica College from 1974-1979. Sheila was also a Santa Monica Recreation & Parks Commission member from 1976-1980. She worked in the Santa Monica City Hall Advanced Planning Department as a Planner in 1981. Sheila is a published poet and writer, with a poem featured in the anthology "When I Am An Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple." Sheila currently serves on the Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council Board of Directors, as she has since 2005.

**Stephanie Cohen, District Director, West/Metro LA**

Stephanie Cohen serves as Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's District for West/Metro Los Angeles. She is responsible for overseeing community engagement, events, programming and constituent services for the communities spanning from Venice and Santa Monica to East Hollywood and Los Feliz. Prior to joining Supervisor Kuehl's office, Stephanie served as Deputy District Director to California State Assemblymember Richard Bloom where she was instrumental in creating educational opportunities for stakeholders related to homelessness, the Affordable Care Act/healthcare, veteran's affairs and education. She served as Assemblymember Bloom's liaison to religious communities and planned the Legislature's Annual Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony in coordination with the Legislative Jewish Caucus. She is the founder of the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness, and continues to serve on its Board of Directors as well as on the Board of LACER Afterschool Programs. Stephanie graduated from UCLA with degrees in Political Science and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.

**Tara Baraukas, Executive Director, Community Corporation of Santa Monica**

Tara has worked to create innovative and sustainable affordable housing for 19 years. She serves as the Executive Director of Community Corporation of Santa Monica, a nonprofit affordable housing owner and development organization based in Santa Monica. In this role she oversees the management of 1,700 units of affordable housing, housing development, resident services, maintenance and administration of 80 staff. Previously, Tara developed affordable and permanent supportive housing throughout the state of California. She currently serves on the

Board of Directors for SCANPH, a nonprofit membership organization that advocates for effective affordable housing policy throughout Southern California. She also serves on the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center Advisory Council, the UCLA Ziman Affordable Housing Advisory Council, and the Board of Friends of Katherine Johnson STEM Academy.

#### **Tara Pomposini, Santa Monica Family YMCA**

Tara Pomposini's entire career has been with the YMCA and includes the YMCA of Pittsburgh and Burbank before coming to the Santa Monica Family YMCA. Tara believes that each person has unique and special gifts to develop and share, and that lasting personal and social change can only come about when we invest in our children, our community, and our health. Under Tara's leadership, the Y launched its Community-Based Health Initiative, offering Livestrong, diabetes prevention, balance, and arthritis programs. Tara served on the YMCA of the USA National Board, National Committee on Membership Standards, Y-USA International Committee, and the National Y-USA Safety Task Force. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the California State Alliance of YMCAs whose purpose it is to harness the power of our collective strength to impact our local communities through advocacy, public policy, and program initiatives. Tara earned a BS in Community Development from Penn State University and has a Master's in Human Services in Organizational Leadership and Non-Profit Management from Springfield College.

#### **Timothy Conley, President, 67 Entertainment**

Timothy Lee Conley is an LA-based Filmmaker, Professor and Administrator. He currently serves as the Executive Producer and Owner of 67 Entertainment. Timothy also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Santa Monica College, teaching courses in Media and Film Studies. Timothy is the Director of Media and Communications for the USC Office of Religious Life. A retired professional athlete, Timothy had the privilege to play in the NFL for the Seattle Seahawks. He has a true passion for grassroots community organizing. Timothy currently serves as a board member with the Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council and is very active with the Baha'i Faith Community of Los Angeles.

#### **Lt. Thomas McLaughlin, Santa Monica Police Department**

Lieutenant Thomas McLaughlin has been a member of the Santa Monica Police Department since 2001. Lt. McLaughlin currently serves as the Officer-in-Charge of the Criminal Investigations Division, where he is responsible for overseeing all investigative and administrative work of the division. During his time as a police officer, he spent time working in patrol, detectives, narcotics, field training officer program, internal affairs, and was on loan to a federal task force. For the last seven years, Tom has been the Legal Officer Liaison to the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office, where he assists with civil rights inquiries. Lt. McLaughlin has a Bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Long Beach and a Master's degree in criminal justice from Chapman University.



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# Exhibit G

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Human Relations Council - Santa Monica Bay Area

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The **Human Relations Council Santa Monica** Bay Area is a non-profit organization that promotes a culture of fair treatment, inclusion and equal access to opportunities. It is led by an all-volunteer board of directors who represent residents, business, non-profit organizations, faith congregations and local government.

- About Us

PO Box 1307, Santa Monica CA 90406-1307. HISTORY The Santa...
- Vision

The Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council (HRC) is a...
- Programs

The HRC partnered with the Santa Monica College Public...
- Partnership, Dialogue and ...

HRC Santa Monica maintains established relationships with...
- Advocacy & Response

This committee is charged with enacting the 'advocacy and...
- HRC Board of Directors

She is an active member of the Santa Monica Human Relations...
- Blog

The Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area is a...
- HRC Board Chair

In addition to John's work with the Santa Monica Bay Area...
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**SANTA MONICA BAY AREA HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL** is an entity registered at California with company number C2670331. Company is incorporated on 11th August 2004. Current status of the company is ACTIVE.

Santa Monica Human Relations Council Launches New Website ...

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Feb 23, 2013 · The **Human Relations Council** of the **Santa Monica** Bay Area (**HRC Santa Monica**) launched a new and dynamic website earlier this...

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The 2019 Mark J. Benjamin Community ... - HRC) Santa Monica

[hrcsantamonica.org](http://hrcsantamonica.org) › the-2019-mark-j-benjamin-community  
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Jul 10, 2021 · The brief -- written by **attorneys Chris Harding** and **Joseph Pertel** -- was filed by the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica, the **Alliance of Santa Monica Latino and Black Voters**, the Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area and Community for Excellent Public Schools.

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# Exhibit I



This year's celebration marks the event's 36th anniversary and embraces the theme "If not us, then who? If not now, then when?" The multi-ethnic, interfaith program will include inspirational remarks, and performances by the Santa Monica High School Choir and the Peace Player Drummers. The program also features the presentation of education awards to local students and a Community Light Award to The Village Nation, an organization whose mission is to "boost the capacity of caring adult mentors and support them in creating culturally responsive learning environments that engage and inspire African American youth, and encourage them to embrace their natural intelligence and leadership capabilities."



The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition presents:

## First Ever Virtual Celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

2021 THEME *"If not us, then who?  
If not now, then when?"*

Join us for a weekend of events celebrating the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, January 18, 2021 9 am @ [www.mlkjrwestside.org](http://www.mlkjrwestside.org).  
36th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration



We are happy to announce the first ever Virtual celebration of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for 2021. Please join us viewing the celebration on-line. In addition to performances by the Samohi choir and the Peace Player Drummers, our holiday celebration will include a Community Light Award to the Village Nation, as well as education awards to local students. Immediately following the celebration, we will host our annual Community Involvement Fair virtually on our website as well.

Our keynote will be given by two terrific speakers, the Honorable Karen Bass and Tamika Butler, Esq. Congressmember Bass was the first African American woman chosen to be Speaker of the California Assembly in 2008, where she served for six years, and is currently Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus of the United States House of Representatives.

Tamika Butler, Esq. is a national expert and lecturer on issues related to the built environment, equity, anti-racism, diversity and inclusion.

We are also excited to partner with New Roads School to create a new, youth oriented event on Thursday, January 14th entitled "Unfinished Work." It moves forward the legacy of Dr. King by encouraging middle and high school students to acknowledge, challenge, disrupt and shine a light on institutional and structural racism.



We hope you will join us in celebrating Dr. King during our weekend of virtual festivities.

**National Holiday Celebration** – Monday, January 18, 2021 9 am [www.mlkjrwestside.org](http://www.mlkjrwestside.org).

**Community Involvement Fair** – Immediately following the National Holiday Celebration [www.mlkjrwestside.org](http://www.mlkjrwestside.org)

Unfinished Work – Thursday, January 14, 2021 6 pm [www.newroads.org/MLK](http://www.newroads.org/MLK) and [www.mlkjrwestside.org](http://www.mlkjrwestside.org)

**MLK Freedom Celebration** – Friday, January 15, 2021 @ 9 am. For information and donations: (310) 452-1116; (officeatmtolivelutheranchurch.org)

Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Concert  
Guido Lamell, Music Director and Conductor – Saturday, January 16, 2021 2 pm <https://www.smsymphony.org/>

For further information: [www.mlkjrwestside.org](http://www.mlkjrwestside.org); Facebook: [mlkwestside.org](https://www.facebook.com/mlkwestside.org);  
Instagram: MLKWestside; Twitter: @Westsidemlk; Email: [mlkwestside@icloud.com](mailto:mlkwestside@icloud.com); Phone: 818 207-3934

The 2021 The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration is presented by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition and sponsored by Santa Monica College, Santa Monica College Associates, SGI-USA, Rand Corporation, and Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council as well as a variety of other organizations and individuals.

The annual Community Involvement Fair – showcasing a variety of community organizations – will follow the event and be held on the website.

Congressmember Bass — now in her fifth term representing California's 37th Congressional District — is currently Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus of the United States House of Representatives. She serves on the House Judiciary Committee, as well as the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, where she is Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations. In 2008, as a member of the California State Assembly, Bass became the first African-American woman in U.S. history to serve as Speaker of any state legislature. Bass, who grew up in the Venice/Fairfax area of Los Angeles that she represents today in Congress, is a graduate of Cal State Dominguez Hills, the University of Southern California's School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program, and the USC Masters Program in Social Work.

Tamika Butler is a national expert and lecturer on issues related to the built environment, equity, anti-racism, diversity, and inclusion. She is the founder and principal of Tamika L. Butler Consulting, and uses her background in law, community organizing, and nonprofit leadership to shine a light on inequality, inequity, and social justice. She is the former Director of Planning, Equity and Inclusion at Toole Design, and previously served as the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, a nonprofit that builds parks and gardens in park-poor communities across Greater Los Angeles to help address social and racial equity, and improve wellness. Butler earned a J.D. at Stanford Law School, and received her B.A. in Psychology and B.S. in Sociology in her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska.

“Unfinished Work,” a new youth-oriented event presented by New Roads School in conjunction with the Westside Coalition, will also be held online at 6 p.m. on January 14 at [newroads.org/MLK](https://newroads.org/MLK). The virtual community event will feature young orators, filmmakers, musicians, and artists, and encourage and welcome young people to think deeply, and creatively express themselves to challenge and help dismantle

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Tomorrow!!



# LGBTQIA+ LIBERATION AND HOUSING JUSTICE WORKSHOP

**TUESDAY, JUNE 29**  
**5:30-7:00PM**

## The People Concern

June 24 at 4:05 PM · 🌐

Join [Everyone In LA](#) on June 29, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm for their next Racial Justice series focused on LGBTQIA+ liberation and housing justice. It's going to be an exciting night so don't miss it!

What to expect: tune in for discussions surrounding housing solut... [See More](#)

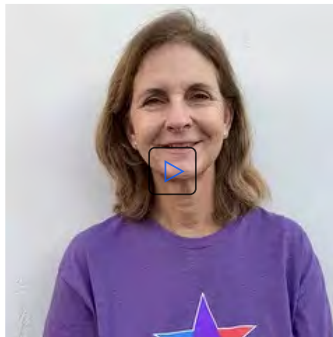
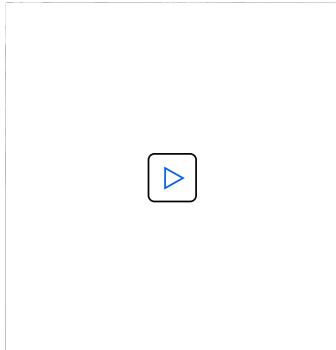
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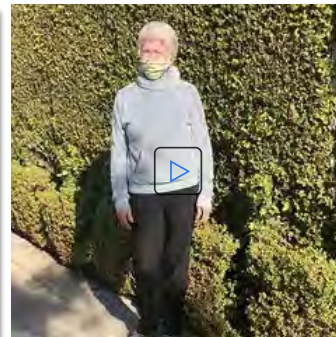
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Domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention Program- Healing Families, Connecting Communities.  
[jenesse.org](http://jenesse.org)  
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Soka Gakkai International-USA (SGI-USA) is the most diverse Buddhist community in the United States, based on core Buddhist principles such as respecting the dignity of human life and the interconnectedness of self and the environment.  
<http://www.sgi-usa.org/>



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[mealsonwheelswla.org](http://mealsonwheelswla.org)



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government. We do not endorse either political parties or candidates running for office but seek to influence public policy through education and advocacy.  
[wvsantamonica.org](http://wvsantamonica.org)  
[league@lwsantamonica.org](http://league@lwsantamonica.org)  
<https://youtu.be/jtsbM3Wp6wg>



The Quinn Research Center is the concept of Carolynne and Bill Edwards as a tribute to the legacy of Dr. Alfred T. Quinn, a prominent Black educator, community leader and icon of the Santa Monica Bay Area in the mid to late 20th century.  
<http://quinnresearchcenter.com/>

# Community awards honor plane crash victim

 [smdp.com/community-awards-honor-plane-crash-victim/147461](https://smdp.com/community-awards-honor-plane-crash-victim/147461)

Jeffrey I. Goodman

The legacy of Mark Benjamin lives on in Santa Monica — not just through the iconic buildings his company constructed around town, but also through people who continue striving to embody his generous spirit.

Less than two years after Benjamin and three others died in a plane crash at Santa Monica Airport, the local Human Relations Council is honoring him by celebrating four volunteers for their compassion, leadership and activism.

Leslie Abell, Barbara Neff, Blake Richetta and Nat Trives were recognized by the nonprofit community coalition during a reception Thursday evening at Santa Monica Bahai Center on Colorado Avenue.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to honor Mark Benjamin, who gave so much of his free time to the council and to the community,” HRC board chair Karen Gunn said. “We named this in his honor because of the good work he did.”

Abell has held numerous leadership roles for the Exceptional Children’s Foundation over the last 30-plus years. He has also donated legal services to the foundation, which supports thousands of children and adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs in Los Angeles County.

Neff has volunteered extensively with Chrysalis, a nonprofit group that aims to help disadvantaged people achieve economic self-sufficiency. A freelance writer, editor and communications consultant, she has taught interview skills to people looking to enter or re-enter the job market for nearly a decade and has mentored formerly homeless women.

Richetta has been volunteering at OPCC for five years, leading class discussions, teaching clients how to use computers and supporting drives for food and clothing. He has also volunteered with Upward Bound House, a local nonprofit group that aims to eliminate homelessness through housing, support services and advocacy.

Trives, a former mayor and police sergeant, has played key roles in numerous community organizations over the last seven decades, including educational institutions, business and faith groups and charities. He is known as “Mr. Santa Monica” because of his dedication, outreach and advocacy.

“They’re incredible people — extraordinary people doing extraordinary things,” Gunn said of this year’s honorees.

The event doubled as a tribute to Benjamin, who was a longtime HRC board member. The late Morley Buildings CEO provided meeting space for the group, donated regularly and contributed to its efforts.

“It was a tremendous loss for us — he was such a stalwart volunteer and supporter,” Gunn said.

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“He had a lot of different ideas for engagement, for bringing all voices to the table. He wanted to find ways for how we could learn about the people in the city.

“The reason for the award is to recognize people who are taking the same path.”

**Contact Jeff Goodman at 310-573-8351, [jeff@smdp.com](mailto:jeff@smdp.com) or on [Twitter](#).**





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CITY COUNCIL COLUMNS FEATURED GOVERNMENT OPINION POLITICS

## Civil Discourse

Guest Author - 2 years ago - Dinner and Dialogue , Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council Board , Westside Together



f t G p in u e

Join us in creating more civil discourse in Santa Monica.

Santa Monica is a city unlike any other. It's full of such beauty – both in nature and in the way people coexist. Every day, there are instances of civility. As a member of the Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council Board, I make it a point to look for examples of courtesy and generosity and share them with others. I've seen people help our unhoused community members by giving them food, offering them support and volunteering with social service organizations. I've seen people go out of their way to pick up trash, clean off graffiti and beautify their neighborhoods to keep Santa Monica cleaner for everyone. I've seen community meetings address issues that might ruffle feathers in other cities. But here, people focus on creating positive change, speaking courteously and respectfully and really listening to one another. These little acts of civility make life better in Santa Monica and everywhere. And the world needs more of them.

To make that happen, the Human Relations Council is starting a dinner series called "Dinner and Dialogue." These dinners will be hosted in someone's home and will feature a free catered dinner, and lively conversation about how to create a community that makes life better for everyone. No judgment or presuppositions, just conversation and bridge-building. Our first dinner will take place May 8th, and we are excited to invite you to join us! We are specifically interested in inviting community members who lack opportunities to share their perspective on how to improve our city. So, while we'd love to sit down with elected or those on commissions or neighborhood group boards, this dinner is designed for everyday citizens of Santa Monica looking to make their neighborhood a better place. If you're interested in participating, please email [info@hrcsantamonica.org](mailto:info@hrcsantamonica.org), and we will let you know if space is available. The only requirement is that you come to the dinner with an open mind and a willingness to participate in civil discourse. Our goal is to foster a more civil and respectful community we can all enjoy.

The Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council was established in 2004 as a nonprofit organization that promotes a culture of fair treatment, inclusion and equal access to opportunities. For more information, please visit us on [www.hrcsantamonica.org](http://www.hrcsantamonica.org) or on our Facebook page.

*Tara Barauskas is the Executive Director of Community Corporation of Santa Monica and serves on the board of The Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council.*

Tags : Dinner and Dialogue Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council Board Westside Together

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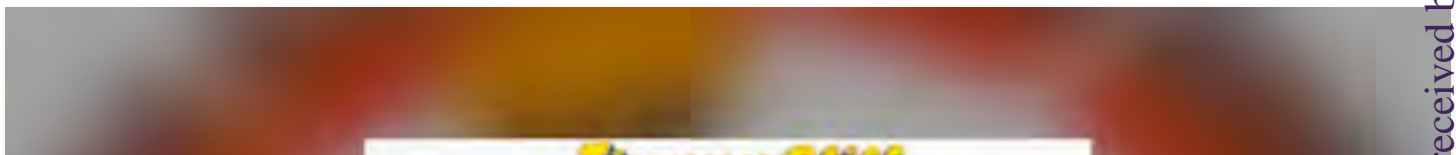
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide  
"Coast To Coast Bandit" sought by the FBI



Courtesy Images

**WANTED:** The FBI is looking for a man suspected of robbing banks in New York and Los Angeles.

The FBI and police on the east and west coasts are seeking the public's assistance in learning the identity of a bank robber suspected to have robbed banks in New York and Los Angeles, officials in both cities announced recently.

The suspect, known to law enforcement as the "Coast to Coast Bandit," was most recently linked to a bank robbery at a Chase Bank on Monday, April 17, on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles, and two last month in New York City.

The Coast to Coast Bandit has been linked to the following bank robberies:  
4/17/17 Chase Bank 8140 Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles, CA  
3/9/17 Santander Bank 1062 3rd Avenue New York, NY  
3/13/17 Chase Bank 450 3rd Avenue New York, NY

The Coast to Coast Bandit is described as a white male who may have had a sunburn when he robbed the bank in Los Angeles on Monday, April 17, according to witnesses. The suspect was wearing a New York Yankees ball cap during two of the robberies in New York.

During the most recent robbery, a victim teller advised that the suspect presented a note which threatened a gun and a knife. The suspect was last seen exiting the front door on Sunset Blvd.

Anyone with information about the Coast to Coast Bandit is asked to avoid direct confrontation with the suspect, but is urged to contact their local FBI office or call 911. In Los Angeles, the FBI may be reached 24 hours at 888 CANT HIDE (888 226-8443).

This investigation is being conducted by the New York City Police Department; Los Angeles Police Department; the FBI, and law enforcement partners as necessary.

Bank surveillance photographs of the Coast to Coast Bandit are being provided to the media. Additional information about bank robbers currently wanted by the FBI's Los Angeles Division can be found at [www.labankrobbers.org](http://www.labankrobbers.org)

— SUBMITTED BY FBI SPOKESWOMAN LAURA EIMILLER

Citywide  
2017 Mark J. Benjamin Community Impact Award Winners

The Human Relations Council of the Santa Monica Bay Area (HRC Santa Monica) has announced the winners of the 2017 Mark J. Benjamin Community Impact Awards. The winners will be feted on Thursday, April 27 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Santa Monica Bahai Center.

Named after long-time HRC Santa Monica board member and former Morley Builders CEO Mark J. Benjamin, the awards recognize those individuals who volunteer their time to promote understanding among diverse people, take actions that make a difference and demonstrate compassion for others.

The 2017 Mark J. Benjamin Community Impact Award winners are Judi Barker, Neil Carrey, Elizabeth Cruz and Steve Vielhaber.

For over 30 years, Judi Barker has been an active volunteer, leader and supporter of numerous organizations including the Santa Monica Police Activities League, Santa Monica Family YMCA, Santa Monica History Museum, Santa Monica Airport Association and the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club.

Neil Carrey has been active in nonprofit and civic organizations since 1968, serving as a volunteer and in various leadership roles with the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica, Vista Del Mar, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, Santa Monica Youth Athletic Foundation and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Elizabeth "Liz" Cruz has been active in the Pico Neighborhood of Santa Monica, where she was born and raised, and continues to be a leader as the Vice Chair of the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board, a mentor to parents, youth and families through Familias Latinas Unidas and Charla y Joyeria, and a community builder through her work with residents at Community Corp of Santa Monica.

Steve Vielhaber has served for many years as a volunteer at Chrysalis, helping homeless individuals prepare to find employment and return to lives of self-sufficiency. He has served as a program volunteer working directly with clients, as well as in leadership roles on three board committees - Finance, Programs and Development.

The Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area is a non-profit organization that promotes a culture of fair treatment, inclusion and equal access to opportunities. It is led by an all-volunteer board of directors who represent residents, business, non-profit organizations, faith congregations and local government.

The awards presentation will take place on Thursday, April 27 at the Santa Monica Bahai Center, 3102 Colorado Boulevard, Santa Monica. Street parking is available along with parking at the Westside Christian Fellowship Church.

The awards presentation begins at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public but RSVPs are required. Please RSVP to: <https://humanrelationscouncilmarkjbenjamin.eventbrite.com>

— SUBMITTED BY DONNA J. GENTRY

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Captain Thomas McLaughlin - Patrol Operations Division



Captain Thomas McLaughlin is currently the Commander for the Patrol Operations Division responsible for Patrol , the Downtown Services Section, Harbor Services, Public Services Downtown Unit, Community Services Officers, Field Training Officer and the Canine Program.

Captain McLaughlin joined the Santa Monica Police Department in March 2001. He graduated from the Orange County Sheriff's Department's Basic Police Academy and was sworn in as a Police Officer in September 2001, just a few days after 9/11. Over the course of his career, he has worked several patrol assignments and held special investigative positions as a detective and served in a Federal Taskforce. His supervisory positions include Patrol Sergeant, Field Training Program Sergeant, Robbery/Homicide Unit Sergeant, Internal Affairs Sergeant, Watch Commander-Police Lieutenant, Operations Division Executive Officer, and Criminal Investigation Division Lieutenant. He was promoted to Captain in February 2020. In this role, he oversaw the Criminal Investigations Division responsible for Investigations in the areas of Crimes Against Persons, Youth and Family Services, Robbery, Homicide, Narcotics, and Vice, Forensics and Records.

Aside from his primary duties, Captain McLaughlin is the Department's Liaison to the City Attorney's Office Civil Division, liaison coordinator to Risk Management for all Workers' Compensation claims; and Instructor with the Santa Monica Institute (SMI) for Ethics and Leadership. As the Department's Liaison to the City Attorney's Office Civil Division, he works together with our attorneys (and outside counsel) in preparing our defense when the City or Department find themselves as a named defendant in civil complaints. He is a Board Member with the Santa Monica Police Activities League and the Human Relations Council - Santa Monica Bay Area.

Upon graduating from high school, Captain McLaughlin attended Cypress College, California State University Long Beach, and Chapman University. He has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Criminal Justice. He has attended professional development programs including the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute - Class 350, Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Executive Development course, POST Management course, POST Civil Liability Course, and the POST Internal Affairs Course. He has been the recipient of Unit, Office, and Chief's Commendations.

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Kids with Cameras

Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 12:02AM

Fabian Lewkowicz



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(1) Moderator Nat Trives asks questions to the Kids with Cameras youth panel during Santa Monica Bay Human Relations Council's Kids With Cameras Photo Exhibition and Community Dialogue at McKinley School on Saturday, October 3, 2009, (2) Maria Ortiz points to her photographs during the photo exhibition and community dialogue. (3) Santa Monica Councilmember Kevin McKeown listens to the youth panel. (4) Yaser Garmakani discusses his images with guests. (5) Santa Monica Police Chief Timothy J. Jackman talks about community safety in a breakout group during the community dialogue. (6) A large turnout of guests attended the photo exhibition and community dialogue. (7) The youth photographers receive their certificate of completion.

'Kids with cameras', a program launched by the Santa Monica Bay Human Relations Council in May 2009 involving mid-city youth, culminated in a photo exhibition and community conversation at McKinley School on Saturday, October 3 2009.

With the goal of reviving the Mid-City Neighborhood group, the only one of six original neighborhood groups in Santa Monica that has been dormant since 2004, the project was designed to create an awareness of civic responsibility among mid-city youth by encouraging them to explore their community and document their views through the lens of a camera.

The participating youth recruited from local non-profit agencies (e.g. the Police Activities League) met once a week for eight weeks to take pictures and share their perspectives on their neighborhood. They were supervised by City staff members Eula Fritz and PAL officers and coordinated by Fabian Lewkowicz, a professional photo journalist who also played the role of a mentor. Lewkowicz led fifteen youths in a photo essay project focusing on the Mid-City Neighborhood, using photojournalistic style. At the finale on October 3, the youth will exhibit their work and share their narratives with the community at large.

The Santa Monica Bay Human Relations Council, a partnership of local community organizations, individuals, institutions and businesses, endeavors to improve human relations and advocates a socially just community through its various projects, i.e. community dialogues, Literature and Arts and Community Heroes Programs. Santa Monica Fire Department Chief Jim Hone is the current Chairperson of HRC. Police Chief Tim Jackman and Michele Wittig are Co-Chairs of the Dialogue committee. Fabian Lewkowicz mentored the youth photographers and curated the photo exhibit and Ilda Jimenez y West was coordinator of the event.

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## March 4 - Second Annual Unity Resource Festival - A Free Community Event "Uniting Youth and Families"

March 4, 2008

**CONTACT:** [Betty Macias](#), Community & Cultural Services, Virginia Avenue Park; 310-458-8688

The City of Santa Monica's Virginia Avenue Park, Santa Monica College and the Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area are hosting the second annual Unity Resource Festival at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Avenue on Sunday, March 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 6 p.m. This free festive event will include entertainment by La.De.Dred (Reggae/Soul), COOP Inc. (jazz), the John Adams Middle School Jazz Band, Hanoolim/Poongmul Drummers from UCLA, hip hop artists SoulReal featuring Anhel from Click, Leila Steinberg - Spoken Word and Mike Shaughnessy.

The event theme is Uniting Youth and Families. In the spirit of change and inspiration, the event will feature keynote addresses by Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent Dianne Talarico and Pro-Skateboarder Terrell Robinson and a community chat, "Choices and Challenges for Youth Successes." Information booths and give-aways from local non-profits and businesses will add to the fun afternoon. Residents are invited to come and learn about the resources available to youth and families in the community. In addition to social services, the event will feature arts organizations and booths with representatives from various youth leadership councils giving voice to youth throughout the city. The SMMUSD and City of Santa Monica will provide information to youth and parents about program opportunities for spring and summer.

There will be something for everyone, including a Kids Art Station provided by Michael's Art Supplies, a skateboard demonstration by the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Monica, skateboard give-aways by Darkstar Productions, games and contests for youth of all ages and not to be forgotten, delicious food from local vendors including Mis Padres Tacos and Your Private Chef (Jerk 'n Q).

Park neighbors are encouraged to walk, bicycle or park for free at Santa Monica College's "Structure A" at the corner of Pico and 17th Street. A Big Blue Bus chartered for the event will shuttle attendees from Santa Monica College at Pico and 16th Street eastbound and back at Pico and 22nd Street (eastbound). Directional signs will be visible at the College on Pico and 17th Street. Virginia Avenue Park is served by Blue Bus Line No. 7 and is accessible for persons with disabilities. For disability-related accommodation requests, or to request this information in an alternate format, please call (310) 458-8688 or TTY: (310) 458-8696 by March 1, 2008.

**Unity Resource Festival 2008 Headline Entertainers**  
March 9, 2008 Virginia Avenue Park, Santa Monica

**La.De.Dred**

La.De.Dred is no stranger to the musical forum. From the church house to the world, it's all been her stage. With the sounds of Motown to Caribbean sounds of Jamaica, Belize, Haiti and Ethiopia, La.De.Dred has performed with Ras Michael, Sly and Robbie, Isaac Haile Selasie, Jr. Walker, Ta-ta Vega, Brenda Holloway, Andre Crouch, Roots and Thunder and others.

La.De.Dred was nominated by the Black Music Awards in the Alternative Music category in February 2006. She will perform with her entire band and back up vocalists at the Unity Resource Festival.

*La.De.Dred is scheduled to perform at the Second Annual Unity Resource Festival.*  
(Click for larger image.)

**Coop Inc.**

Coop features keyboard artist and vocalist Arnell "Coop" Cooper, Keenan "Keynote" Holloway on bass guitar, Mike "DR" Edwards on guitar and Kevin "Styx" Wiggs on drums. Individually they have played for Luther Vandross, Kanye West, Janet Jackson, Jay-Z, Mya, Eddie Murphy, Tony Bennett and many others. Collectively, they will have you dancing, singing and unable to sit down.

**Hanoolim/Poongmul UCLA Drummers**

The Korean Cultural Awareness Group's purpose is to learn and preserve traditional Korean culture, to spread awareness of social issues and to enrich the UCLA campus and the surrounding community by means of this Korean art form. Hanoolim (one united sound) was established in 1991 with a small group of Poongmul or Korean traditional drummers. Their popularity has expanded their size and performances throughout the community.

*Hanoolim/Poongmul UCLA Drummers*  
(Click for larger image.)

**SoulReal**

SoulReal, featuring Anhel from the Click - the Pico Representatives - will present some conscious hip hop straight from the soul. Clever words, along with soothing soulful beats, are sure to "inspire the mind and capture the heart." For more information on SoulReal, contact Angel Villasenor at the Virginia Avenue Park Teen Center, 310-458-8688.

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## Unity Resource Festival , March 8th, “Promoting a Strong and Sustainable Community”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 31, 2009

Contact: Betty Macias, Virginia Avenue Park

Phone: (310) 458-8688

The City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica College and the Santa Monica - Bay Area Human Relations Council will present the Third Annual Unity Resource Festival on Sunday, March 8 from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm at VirginiaAvenue Park (20<sup>th</sup> Street and Pico Boulevard) in Santa Monica. This year’s grand festival theme is “Promoting a Strong and Sustainable Community” and features information on city, business and non-profit agencies that strengthen the community with supportive resources. In the spirit of community service, the fair will also provide information on opportunities for residents to serve as volunteers in programs for youth and families throughout the city. The producers and sponsors of the festival feel that in these economic times, a festival such as this provides the opportunity to highlight resources including employment, counseling, health services, after-school activities, art and other programs to strengthen family support networks. In addition, as a community of residents known for civic involvement, the festival will provide opportunities to volunteer in all areas from tutoring to distributing food. It’s time for the community to come together to celebrate and support one another!

Free live entertainment will be featured throughout the event with such notable groups as the **Luminaries**, a ten piece live music, “conscious hip-hop” band with their new release, *Peace.*; **Back of the Hand Allstars** (an ensemble of studio jazz musicians); favorite local dance band, **Horny Toad**, rock/latin/ska music; and more! In addition, Oldies station 92.3FM will broadcast from the event. Art, games, a Rock Climbing Wall, Fitness Contests by O2MAX, and Silly Sally Balloons will all be part of a Fun Zone for youth. Featured speakers this year will be Louise Jaffe, Chair of Santa Monica College and Tasha Danvers, 2008 Summer Olympics Bronze Medal winner. Both will bring an inspirational message about individual and community strength and the importance of civic involvement promoting the idea that together, we can all make a positive difference in the communities we live in.

For the third year, the Santa Monica-Bay Area Human Relations Council is coordinating a youth leadership dialogue. This year, the dialogue is youth driven and organized by representatives from youth leadership councils and clubs throughout the City. The theme chosen by the youth organizers is “Power in Numbers:The Value of our Voices”. The youth group will send out a separate press release as more details are developed. In weeks leading up to the Festival, look for youth wearing buttons that say “Power in Numbers”.

Delicious food will be provided by the Green Truck, Corn Maiden, Hot Dog Mama and Jamba Juice.

Parking at the park is limited so walk, bike or take the Big Blue Bus shuttle from Santa Monica College just blocks away! VirginiaAvenue Park is wheelchair accessible and welcomes persons of all abilities. Event sponsors include the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica College, Wells Fargo Bank, the Santa Monica-Bay Area Human Relations Council, O2MAX, and Your Private Chef.

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## Unity Resource Festival, March 7, 2010 - "COMMUNITY COUNTS"

February 17, 2010  
For Immediate Release  
Contact: Betty Macias at 310-458-8688, Virginia Avenue Park  
Marcia Fierro at 310-434-4290, Santa Monica College

The City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica-Bay Area Human Relations Council and the US Census 2010 present the Fourth Annual Unity Resource Festival on Sunday, March 7 from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park (Cloverfield and Pico Boulevard) in Santa Monica. This year's festival theme is "Community Counts" and features information on city, business and non-profit agencies that strengthen the community with supportive resources. In the spirit of community service, the festival will also provide information on opportunities for residents to serve as volunteers in programs for youth and families throughout the city. The producers and sponsors of the festival feel that, in these economic times, a festival such as this provides the opportunity to highlight resources that strengthen family support networks including employment, counseling, health services, after-school activities, art, food banks and more. For a community of residents known for civic involvement, the festival will provide opportunities to volunteer in all areas from tutoring to distributing food. It's time again for the community to come together to celebrate and support one another!

Free live entertainment will be featured throughout the event with such notable groups as the Westside Crew, a ten piece live dance music band; DJ Peyote Cody & Back of the Hand Allstars (an ensemble of studio jazz musicians); favorite local dance band, S.O.G. Crew, rock/latin/gospel music; Chico & the Music Center Youth Band-Golden Monkeys, P.Y.F.C. HipHop Music and more! Finally, the Youth Fun Zone will be bigger than ever this year including art, games, a rock climbing wall, Silly Sally Balloons and activities/workshops offered by members of the Youth Collaborative.

Featured speaker this year will be, Rob Johnson, Producer/Director, who has a distinguished career spanning 18 years of cutting edge film, television and music video work. He has recently produced the independent drama "The Obama Effect" - starring, written and directed by Charles S. Dutton and is currently producing Queen Latifah's, "The Cookout 2. Rob will bring an inspirational message about individual and community strength and the importance of civic involvement promoting the idea that together, we can all make a positive difference in our communities.

The Santa Monica-Bay Area Human Relations Council is sponsoring an interactive booth at this year's Unity Resource Festival. The booth is being planned with representatives from HRC, youth leadership groups from the community and Virginia Ave Park staff. Youth will organize and coordinate the booth at the festival for all to enjoy.

Also for the 4th year, Unity awards will be given for outstanding community service by an organization or individual!

Sponsors include the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica College, Time-Warner Cable, Santa Monica-Bay Area Human Relations Council, Your Private Chef, and Trader Joe's. Delicious food will be provided by the Barbie's Q, India Jones Chow Truck and the Gourmet Quickie. Residents are asked to bring canned or packaged food for the Westside Food Bank. Parking at the park is limited so walk, bike or take the Big Blue Bus shuttle from Santa Monica College just blocks away! Virginia Avenue Park is wheelchair accessible and welcomes persons of all abilities.


# # #

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## KIDS WITH CAMERAS : PEOPLE AND PLACES - A Photo Exhibition

From: Rekha Parekh, Media Consultant

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 15, 2012

**KIDS WITH CAMERAS : PEOPLE AND PLACES - A Photo Exhibition**

Kids with Cameras, the fourth annual Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay sponsored summer project for local youths will celebrate its finale on August 29 at 6 p.m. at Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Avenue in the G Building corridor in Santa Monica. The evening program will feature a reception and a photo exhibit with **Santa Monica Fire Chief Scott Ferguson as the Emcee.**

Based on the theme *People and Places of Santa Monica*, the six week workshop in photojournalism took the twenty Middle School youth recruited from Police Activities League, Boys and Girls Club and Santa Monica Family YMCA, to Santa Monica Fire Department's training facility, Palisades Park with Police K 9 Unit, Annenberg Beach Club, Third Street Promenade with a focus on street performers and public art, Museum of Flying and Santa Monica Pier/Palisades Park.

The summer workshop was led by photo mentors Fabian Lewkowicz, Nick Steers and Charles Haskell and the Committee is co-chaired by Santa Monica Fire Department Chief Scott Ferguson and Donna Gentry, Gentry Group.

The fundamental objective of the summer workshops was to provide local kids with an opportunity to explore and appreciate the beauty and diversity of Santa Monica, says Human Relations Board Chair professor Jody Priselac, Executive Director of UCLA's Center X. "The photographs they took demonstrate the students' amazing creativity and talent. We are so proud of what they have accomplished."

The Human Relations Council is a partnership of local community organizations, individuals, institutions, and business endeavors to promote and support a respectful and socially just community through education, advocacy and resolution of local conflicts and issues.

For additional information contact:

Donna Gentry, [gentryevents@gmail.com](mailto:gentryevents@gmail.com)

High resolution photographs available upon request to:  
Fabian Lewkowicz, [fabian@fabianlewkowicz.com](mailto:fabian@fabianlewkowicz.com)

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# Santa Monica Human Relations Council Launches New Website:

The Human Relations Council of the Santa Monica Bay Area (HRC Santa Monica) launched a new and dynamic website earlier this week: <http://hrcsantamonica.org>.

Ilda Jiménez y West, the HRC’s newly elected Chair, said the Human Relations Council Santa Monica website is a resource for communities that are willing to engage one another in meaningful and courageous ways through dialogue, programs, events, and social media.

“It is our privilege to launch a website that mirrors the human relations work that we as a council have been conducting offline and continue to serve as a premier resource in a time of wonderment and change – check us out,” Jiménez y West said.

With the launch of its official web site, HRC Santa Monica endeavors to build an effective community voice by connecting with the multi-cultural and multi-faceted population of Santa Monica.

Through this cooperative effort, HRC’s objective is to create better understanding, tolerance and acceptance among the various ethnic groups representing different cultures and faiths in the city.

By [mirrormmg](#), February 23, 2013  
in [News](#)



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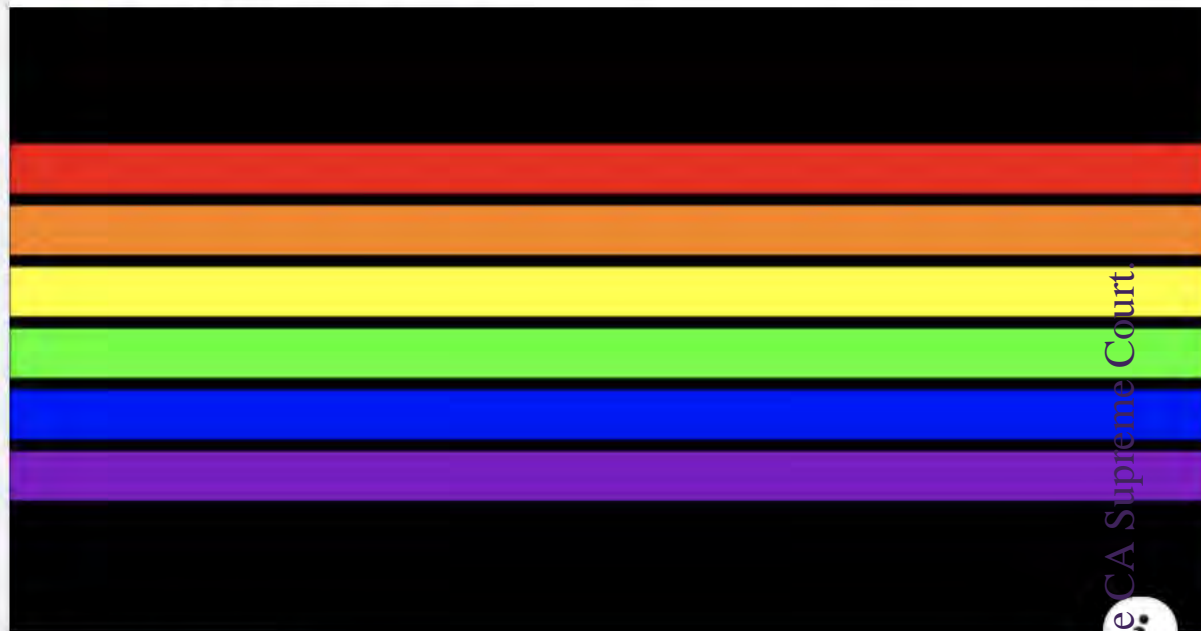
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Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area

July 10 at 3:35 PM ·

Honor Mr. Gancman and other Holocaust survivors by becoming a [#WitnessToTruth](#) and watching Mr. Gancman's testimony: <https://fb.watch/v/16g2C6sMo/>

Document received by the CA Supreme Court





Happy #Juneteenth! As we celebrate freedom won from America's original sin, let's also recommit ourselves to the work still needed to achieve equity and justice. Check out these community festivities!

# JUNeteenth!

29TH ANNUAL  
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2021**

**10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

**The Change is Here!**

Join us for a morning of song, music, and community!

Register in advance for this **FREE** webinar:  
[bit.ly/SMJuneteenth](https://bit.ly/SMJuneteenth)

**FEATURED PERFORMERS INCLUDE:**



Chazz Ross and  
Teresa Smith



Kaleo and the  
Voice of One Singers  
featuring Dr. Henry Jackson



Harold Wherry and  
the Blue Breeze Band



with  
Sean Raymond Hill as  
Master of Ceremonies

## GUEST SPEAKERS:

**LaVerne Ross**  
founder, Santa Monica Juneteenth Celebration

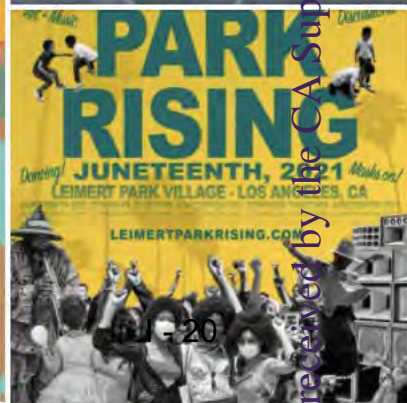
**Mayor Himmelfrich**  
presenting Juneteenth Proclamation

Presented by the City of Santa Monica  
and the Juneteenth Celebration Committee, Inc.

For more information visit:  
[smgov.net/vapark](https://smgov.net/vapark)  
or call 310-458-8688



City of  
**Santa  
Monica**



# Exhibit J

# HRC Board of Directors



Meet the individuals that make up the HRC Board of Directors and the community organizations, institutions and businesses that they represent.

## HRC BOARD CHAIR

### John Maceri, Executive Director, The People Concern

John Maceri is the Executive Director of The People Concern. With more than fifty-six years of work in the community, The People Concern empowers the most vulnerable among us to rebuild their lives. As a long-time community volunteer, John served on the board of the Business Alliance of Los Angeles as a member, Vice President and two-term President. He is a Past Chair of the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition, and served as a member of the Board of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. John is a past Vice President of the Board of North Valley Caring Services, and a former member of the governing board of the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation.

## HRC BOARD PAST CHAIR

### Dr. Karen S. Gunn, Community Member/Business Owner

Dr. Karen S. Gunn is a psychologist with over thirty years of experience working as a consultant and educator in the public and private sectors. Her expertise lies in organizational, management and program development, leadership skills, cross-cultural and diversity issues, interpersonal communication and human relations. Dr. Gunn was a tenured faculty member in the Psychology Department at Santa Monica College and served as department chair during that time. Dr. Gunn has served as a board member for national and local organizations as well as non-profit agencies. Dr. Gunn served as the prior Human Relations Council Board Chair.

## HRC BOARD VICE CHAIRS

### Donna Gentry, Owner, Gentry Group

Donna is an independent consultant providing marketing communications and special event services for over 25 years to non-profit organizations, business and government. She is an active volunteer and in addition to the HRC, her volunteer efforts present and past include: Board member of the Police Activities League (PAL); OPCC (now The People Concern), Westside Family Health Center, Pico Improvement Organization and the City of Santa Monica's Buy Local Committee. Her website [santamonicabayevents.net](http://santamonicabayevents.net) is offered as a community service whereby local non-profit organizations may have their events posted free of charge for promotion to the community.

### Dr. Jody Priselac, Associate Dean for Community Programs, UCLA

Jody Z. Priselac is one of the founding Directors of the HRC in 2004 and has been a

## HRC SANTA MONICA UPDATES

[Around the Bay](#) (2)

[Community Conversations](#) (2)

[Events](#) (8)

[MJB Awards](#) (7)

[Special Announcements](#) (9)

[Uncategorized](#) (3)

[What's going on?](#) (2)



member ever since. She has served as Vice Chair and Chair of the HRC Board. Dr. Priselac is the Associate Dean for Community Programs in UCLA's Graduate School of Education & Information Studies. She has over 30 years of experience as a mathematics educator, serving in many roles, including high school teacher, professional development leader, teacher educator, and educational researcher. Her research focuses on how to change teacher practice in mathematics in urban schools and partner with communities to advance equitable education.

#### **Mary Luthy, Retired Community Health Nurse**

For 20 years, Mary managed community health programs in downtown Los Angeles at California Hospital Medical Center, St. Vincent Medical Center and Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. For over 11 years, she served the Director of Community Benefits for at Providence Saint John's Health Center. The Community Benefits Department collaborated with government agencies and community organizations to better serve vulnerable populations. As Director, she served as the hospital liaison for the launch of Westside Respite Health Care with The People Concern, (formerly OPCC), Venice Family Clinic, and UCLA Santa Monica. She worked closely with Emergency Department medical staff, management and staff, case management, community health outreach, and community service providers to ensure the coordination and delivery of services to those experiencing homelessness and others in needed.

#### **HRC BOARD SECRETARY**

##### **Debra A. Farmer, President/CEO, Westside Family Health Center**

Debra A. Farmer has been President/CEO of Westside Family Health Center (WFHC) since 1999. Ms. Farmer has been a tireless health advocate at the local, state and national levels for women's health care and health care for the safety net. She is a board member of the California Primary Care Association (past board chair), the Westside Coalition – Hunger, Housing, Health and Clinic Mutual Insurance Company (current board president) and was formerly board chair of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County. Ms. Farmer's previous professional experiences include stints at The Ahmanson Foundation and Planned Parenthood Los Angeles.

#### **HRC BOARD TREASURER**

##### **Perry Roshan-Zamir, Community Member**

Perry Roshan-Zamir is the general counsel for Cabo Cantina and their group of restaurants and practices franchise law. He received his bachelors in Biomedical and Electrical Engineering from USC in 1989, his J.D. From Whittier College School of Law in 1992 and his Masters in Business Taxation from USC in 1996. Perry is a certified diving instructor, very well-traveled, and serves as the chairman of the board of directors of Reef Check, an international non-profit organization whose mission is to empower people to save our reefs and oceans. Perry also serves as a member of the board of directors of the Senior Arts Foundation, based in Los Angeles.

#### **HRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

##### **Ana Maria Jara, City of Santa Monica Council Member & Community Member**

Ana Maria Jara, a native from Guatemala, C. A. is a proud mother of four daughters, has six grandchildren. Has lived in Santa Monica for almost 40 years and worked at Santa Monica College for over 25 years. In January 2019, Ana was appointed to the Santa Monica City Council. Throughout her career, she has been a tireless advocate for smart and inclusive solutions to issues of inequality in Santa Monica. Ana has served on numerous boards and organizations playing a vital leadership role to impact the lives of youth and families in Santa Monica. Her first entry into civic engagement was as an advocate with The Quiet Minority. Since then, she has served on PTSA as a member and co-chair, participated as District Advisory Committee member for multiple groups, and co-founded various district-wide committees. Before being appointed to serve on the City Council, she served as Chair on the Commission of the Status of Women and the Social Services Commission.

##### **Cynthia Rose, Santa Monica Spoke**

Cynthia Rose is the Director of Santa Monica Spoke and co-founder of the Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance working to make Santa Monica a safer and better place to live, walk, bike, work, and play through community engagement, education and

encouragement. She is a dedicated community advocate focused on collaborations to establish policy and infrastructure for safer walking and biking as means for creating more environmentally sustainable, equitable and healthy community. In addition to her local advocacy, she is currently Board Chair of the California Bicycle Coalition and previous board member of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition and Sustainable Streets. Cynthia is a certified cycling instructor with the League of American Bicyclists.

#### **Donald J. Zelaya, City of Santa Monica Information Services**

Donald has been with the City of Santa Monica since 2015 in various departments and currently works for Information Services. Donald is a member of the Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE) network whose mission is to promote and institute equity in local government. He has long been involved in social justice efforts beginning from when he worked in an access and retention community center for historically underrepresented students. Donald is passionate about community empowerment and being an active community member. He currently serves on the City of Los Angeles, Sylmar Neighborhood Council where he chairs the outreach and community engagement committee. Donald holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from University of California, San Diego with a minors in Political Science and Urban Studies and Planning.

#### **Eric Shafer, Senior Pastor, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church**

The Rev. Eric C. Shafer is Senior Pastor at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica. He has helped open the Bruin Shelter (now called "Students4Students" Shelter) at Mt. Olive, the first shelter for homeless college students on the west coast and has been involved in the relaunch of the Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council. His previous positions include Senior Vice President for Odyssey Networks in New York City and Director of Communion for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Chicago. Shafer has taught in South Africa and Madagascar and made multiple trips to Jerusalem and the West Bank.

#### **Gary Avrech, Community Member/Business Owner**

Gary Avrech was born and raised in Southern California. He owns and operates Go Graphics & Printing Company, which he founded in 1982. He is the founder and Executive Director of Community Productions Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that assists other organizations that help those in immediate distress. He graduated from SMC and served as President of the Associated Students and Student Member of the SMC Board of Trustees. He has also served in many volunteer roles, including President and Member of the SMC General Advisory Board; Chair and Board Member of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition; Vice President and Board Member of the Santa Monica-Venice Branch of the NAACP; Chair and Member of the SMMUSD Intercultural Equity & Excellence District Advisory Committee.

#### **Janet Gollery McKeithen, Senior Pastor, Church In Ocean Park**

Janet Gollery McKeithen holds a Bachelors degree from Humboldt State University and a Master's of Divinity from CST. In her 20's, she was the Executive Director of SSP, a program where high school students help repair the homes of Native American families. In Inyo County, she worked with mothers who were addicted to Meth and directed the "Healthy Families" program. She is an ordained elder in the UMC, served as the Consultant for Immigration and Refugee Ministries, and has helped create Latch-Key programs, english classes, spanish classes, a senior citizen center and the Western Methodist Justice Movement. She is a founding member of the Committee for Racial Justice, and the President of the Santa Monica Area Interfaith Council. She is an Advisory Committee member for Climate Action Santa Monica, and has recently helped launch Young People Creating Change (YPCC). Janet was a member of the SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) for 10 years and currently serves on the GoSaMo Transportation Management Organization.

#### **Julie Rusk, Chief of City Wellbeing, City of Santa Monica**

Julie is the City of Santa Monica's first Chief of Civic Wellbeing. Throughout her career, she has spearheaded responsive government policy and innovations to

improve community outcomes through creative partnerships, social impact initiatives and civic engagement. In 2017, she created the City's first [Office of Civic Wellbeing](#) within the City Manager's Office after leading the City's winning government innovation proposal to develop a local wellbeing index from Bloomberg Philanthropies and Santa Monica's 2016 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health prize. Ms. Rusk was a 2016/17 Fellow with Business Alliance for a Local Living Economy (BALLE); was named to the 2017 List of 25 Top Influencers by Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL); and is currently a Senior Fellow with UCLA's Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities.

#### **Laura Rosenbaum, Community Member**

Laura is an active volunteer in Santa Monica, serving on the boards of the Human Relations Council and the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica. Professionally, she is director of retail banking marketing at OneWest Bank. She is the mother of two sons and two grandsons, and enjoys studying the earthworks and culture of the Hopewell Indians of Ohio.

#### **Lindsay Call, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Santa Monica**

Lindsay Call serves as the City of Santa Monica's Chief Resilience Officer, overseeing the City's Office of Emergency Management. Lindsay focuses on building the City's "community resilience" program to better prepare the local population to recover from events ranging from acute emergency incidents, like earthquakes, to long-term chronic challenges, such as climate change. Over the past ten years, Lindsay has served various public health and emergency management agencies, specializing in serving vulnerable populations. She has spent much of her life volunteering, including for Kansas City's ANYTOWN social justice youth program. Lindsay holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies from American University in Washington, DC and a Master's of Public Health from UCLA.

#### **Michele Wittig, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, CSUN**

Michele Wittig has been engaged in community organizing and activism since the 1960's at the University of Illinois, from which she received the Ph.D. in experimental psychology. During four decades as a CSUN professor, she taught research methods; published research on acculturation, prejudice reduction, justice and intergroup relations; and conducted program evaluations for human rights organizations. Her work in Santa Monica has addressed homelessness, educational opportunity and policing equity. She has been an expert witness on employment discrimination and a consultant to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Geneva) and to the British Red Cross.

#### **Misti Kerns, President/CEO, Santa Monica Travel and Tourism**

Misti Kerns, President/CEO of Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT), joined SMTT in 1997 and has served in her current role for 17 years and is a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) and a Certified Destination Management Executive (CDME). Kerns founded the 'I AM Santa Monica' program, which has certified over 3,000 local employees and community members as official Santa Monica ambassadors. She is an active member of the Santa Monica Human Relations Council, Santa Monica Pier Corporation Board of Directors and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and serves on local, state and national tourism boards. Kerns has been a resident of Santa Monica for over 22 years, and resides in the city by the sea with her husband and daughter.

#### **Nat Trives, Coalition for Engaged Education**

Nat arrived in Santa Monica in 1949 and he attended Lincoln Jr. High School, SAMOHI and SMC. He married Ida Smith on July 3, 1955 and they are the proud parents of Dr. Toni Trives, Chair of the Modern Language Department at SMC. She has two sons, Tristan and Tanner who are the center of the family's love and affection. Nat has enjoyed a wonderful career in public service as a member of SMPD, Professor Emeritus in Criminal Justice CSULA, former Mayor of Santa Monica, Deputy Superintendent at SMC and a volunteer on more than twenty NPO Boards.

**Natalya Zernitskaya, Community Member**

Natalya was born in Belarus and moved to San Francisco with her family as a child. After earning her Bachelor's degree in Economics from University of California, Santa Cruz, she decided to relocate to the Los Angeles area and found her community in Santa Monica. In addition to her full time job as a Due Diligence Analyst in the financial services industry, Natalya is currently the President of the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica; and has served as Treasurer and Webmaster for the organization in the past. She was also previously the Secretary of the Administrative Board of Directors for the Church in Ocean Park. Occasionally, she freelances as a Stage Manager for theatrical productions in the Los Angeles Area. Natalya is passionate about human rights and advocating for positive change in her community, with a particular focus on the issues of housing, social justice, and women's rights.

**Shawn Landres, Ph.D., Community Member**

Connecting people, ideas, and resources, Shawn Landres, Ph.D., has earned international recognition for his leadership in social innovation and interreligious engagement. A widely published essayist and editor whose work has been featured by the Obama White House and covered by TIME, the Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times, Shawn is the co-founder of Jumpstart Labs, an active partner in early-stage ventures and social enterprises, and Senior Fellow at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. Currently Chair of the Los Angeles County Quality & Productivity Commission and a member of the City of Santa Monica Planning Commission, Shawn and his family live in Santa Monica, where he also serves on the SMMUSD Financial Oversight Committee and the Airport2Park Foundation advisory board.

**Sheila Banani, Baha'i Community Member**

Sheila Banani has been a homeowner in Santa Monica since 1966. She is a graduate of UCLA, with a B.A. in Sociology and an M.A. in Urban Planning: Public Policy & Social Development. She was an elected member and Chair of Santa Monica Baha'i Assembly from 1966-2016. She taught Sociology at Santa Monica College from 1974-1979. Sheila was also a Santa Monica Recreation & Parks Commission member from 1976-1980. She worked in the Santa Monica City Hall Advanced Planning Department as a Planner in 1981. Sheila is a published poet and writer, with a poem featured in the anthology "When I Am An Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple." Sheila currently serves on the Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council Board of Directors, as she has since 2005.

**Stephanie Cohen, District Director, West/Metro LA**

Stephanie Cohen serves as Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's District for West/Metro Los Angeles. She is responsible for overseeing community engagement, events, programming and constituent services for the communities spanning from Venice and Santa Monica to East Hollywood and Los Feliz. Prior to joining Supervisor Kuehl's office, Stephanie served as Deputy District Director to California State Assemblymember Richard Bloom where she was instrumental in creating educational opportunities for stakeholders related to homelessness, the Affordable Care Act/healthcare, veteran's affairs and education. She served as Assemblymember Bloom's liaison to religious communities and planned the Legislature's Annual Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony in coordination with the Legislative Jewish Caucus. She is the founder of the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness, and continues to serve on its Board of Directors as well as on the Board of LACER Afterschool Programs. Stephanie graduated from UCLA with degrees in Political Science and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.

**Tara Baraukas, Executive Director, Community Corporation of Santa Monica**

Tara has worked to create innovative and sustainable affordable housing for 19 years. She serves as the Executive Director of Community Corporation of Santa Monica, a nonprofit affordable housing owner and development organization based in Santa Monica. In this role she oversees the management of 1,700 units of affordable housing, housing development, resident services, maintenance and administration of 80 staff. Previously, Tara developed affordable and permanent supportive housing throughout the state of California. She currently serves on the

Board of Directors for SCANPH, a nonprofit membership organization that advocates for effective affordable housing policy throughout Southern California. She also serves on the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center Advisory Council, the UCLA Ziman Affordable Housing Advisory Council, and the Board of Friends of Katherine Johnson STEM Academy.

#### **Tara Pomposini, Santa Monica Family YMCA**

Tara Pomposini's entire career has been with the YMCA and includes the YMCA of Pittsburgh and Burbank before coming to the Santa Monica Family YMCA. Tara believes that each person has unique and special gifts to develop and share, and that lasting personal and social change can only come about when we invest in our children, our community, and our health. Under Tara's leadership, the Y launched its Community-Based Health Initiative, offering Livestrong, diabetes prevention, balance, and arthritis programs. Tara served on the YMCA of the USA National Board, National Committee on Membership Standards, Y-USA International Committee, and the National Y-USA Safety Task Force. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the California State Alliance of YMCAs whose purpose it is to harness the power of our collective strength to impact our local communities through advocacy, public policy, and program initiatives. Tara earned a BS in Community Development from Penn State University and has a Master's in Human Services in Organizational Leadership and Non-Profit Management from Springfield College.

#### **Timothy Conley, President, 67 Entertainment**

Timothy Lee Conley is an LA-based Filmmaker, Professor and Administrator. He currently serves as the Executive Producer and Owner of 67 Entertainment. Timothy also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Santa Monica College, teaching courses in Media and Film Studies. Timothy is the Director of Media and Communications for the USC Office of Religious Life. A retired professional athlete, Timothy had the privilege to play in the NFL for the Seattle Seahawks. He has a true passion for grassroots community organizing. Timothy currently serves as a board member with the Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council and is very active with the Baha'i Faith Community of Los Angeles.

#### **Lt. Thomas McLaughlin, Santa Monica Police Department**

Lieutenant Thomas McLaughlin has been a member of the Santa Monica Police Department since 2001. Lt. McLaughlin currently serves as the Officer-in-Charge of the Criminal Investigations Division, where he is responsible for overseeing all investigative and administrative work of the division. During his time as a police officer, he spent time working in patrol, detectives, narcotics, field training officer program, internal affairs, and was on loan to a federal task force. For the last seven years, Tom has been the Legal Officer Liaison to the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office, where he assists with civil rights inquiries. Lt. McLaughlin has a Bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Long Beach and a Master's degree in criminal justice from Chapman University.



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Since 2004

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# Exhibit K





COMMUNITY  
FOR  
EXCELLENT  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

advocates for strong SMMUSD schools

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Issues

Resources

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**CEPS Opposes Malibu's Separation Plan. Please speak out on Saturday, April 17. [Details here](#)**

Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) is dedicated to the preservation and betterment of public schools in the Santa Monica -Malibu Unified School District







## JOIN CEPS

Become a member and help us advocate for excellent public education!



## DONATE

Your generous contribution today could protect public education for a generation.



## VOTE

Together we can elect true champions for education in our community.

# AT-A-GLANCE ENDORSEMENTS

## CEPS 2020 Election Endorsements

### Santa Monica City Council

- Glean Davis
- Ana Maria Jara
- Terry O'Day
- Ted Winterer
- Kristin McCowan

### Santa Monica College Board of Trustees

- Susan Aminoff
- Margaret Quiñones-Perez
- Rob Greenstein Rader

### Santa Monica-Malibu Board of Education

- Keith Coleman
- Jon Kean
- Maria León-Vasquez
- Jen Smith

### Statewide Ballot Measures

- Yes on 15
- Yes on 16

### Local Ballot Measures

- Yes on SM



STEERING COMMITTEE 2020-21

Shari Davis, Chair  
Judy Abdo  
Michael Dubin  
Don Girard  
Mike Gruning  
Chris Harding  
Sharon Hart  
Shawn Landres  
Tom Larmore  
Debbie Mulvaney, Treasurer  
Gerda Newbold  
Angela Scott  
Naomi Seligman  
Sonya Sultan  
Winnie Wechsler

EX-OFFICIO

Dr. Louise Jaffe  
Harry Keiley  
Laurie Lieberman  
Ralph Mechur  
Barry Snell  
Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein  
Nat Trives



Past CEPS Leadership



TERM

2013 - present  
  
2012 - 2013  
  
2011 - 2012  
  
2009 - 2011  
  
2006 - 2009  
  
2003 - 2006  
  
Developing years (pre "CEPS")

CHAIRPERSON

Shari Davis, Chair  
  
Rebecca Kennerly, Chair  
  
Rebecca Kennerly and Shari Davis, Co-Chairs  
  
Rebecca Kennerly, Chair  
  
Shari Davis, Chair  
  
Louise Jaffe and Shari Davis, Co-Chairs  
  
Linda Greenberg Gross and Ralph Mechur, Co-Chairs



# Our Mission

Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) is dedicated to the preservation and betterment of public schools in the Santa Monica -Malibu Unified School District.

In order to achieve this goal, we resolve:

- To promote a shared community vision for excellence in our public schools that includes early childhood and post-secondary education;
- To evaluate and pursue a range of short and long term funding measures through state, city and school district policies and elections;
- To identify and support issues that will support education and public schools, including early childhood education, after-school programs, and post-secondary public education;
- To increase public awareness of the value and uniqueness of our public schools;
- To promote accountability for high quality public education by public institutions and public officials.

Video embed code not specified.



# Exhibit L





ceps santa monica



All



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News



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Maps



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<https://www.excellentpublicschools.org>

## CEPS Website – CEPS Website

Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) is dedicated to the preservation and betterment of public schools in the **Santa Monica** -Malibu Unified School ...

### About CEPS

Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) is dedicated to ...

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### Resources

Resources and Links. smmusd-  
logo. Santa Monica-Malibu ...



Rating

### Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS)

No reviews · Association or organization

2118 Wilshire Blvd · In Post Tel Business Center · (310) 828-0224

[Directions](#)

### Gail Meyer LCSW, CEP

5.0 (1) · College

(310) 459-5453

**Closed** · Opens 8:30AM Mon


[Website](#)
<https://www.facebook.com/category/Education/C...>

### CEPS - Community for Excellent Public Schools - Home ...

CEPS - Community for Excellent Public Schools, **Santa Monica**, California. 38 likes · 1 talking about this. Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS)...

<https://www.facebook.com/posts>

### CEPS - Community for Excellent Public Schools - Posts ...

CEPS - Community for Excellent Public Schools, **Santa Monica**, California. ... Why community leaders oppose the Recall Effort of **Santa Monica**-Malibu...

<http://erininatsugu.com>

### CEPS Website – CEPS Website

Sep 4, 2020 — Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) is dedicated to the preservation and betterment of ... **Santa Monica**-Malibu Board of Education ...

<https://smmirror.com/2012/09/community-for-excelle...>

### Community for Excellent Public Schools Makes Santa Monica ...

Sep 10, 2012 — The CEPS Steering Committee made its endorsements on Saturday, Sept. 8, after a two-week evaluation process. Candidates for the **Santa** ...



<https://www.smdp.com> › decade-of-advocacy-strengthe...  ⋮

**Decade of advocacy strengthens ties - Santa Monica Daily Press**

Nov 2, 2011 — Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS), a **Santa Monica**-based, all-volunteer, grass-roots political action committee, has advocated for ...

<https://www.smdp.com> › political-groups-release-endor...  ⋮

**Political groups release endorsement information - - Santa ...**

Sep 14, 2020 — For **Santa Monica** City Council, **CEPS** will back Glearn Davis, Ana Maria Jara, Terry O'Day, Ted Winterer and Kristin McCowan for the two-year ...

<https://codigo-postal.co> › california · [Translate this page](#)  ⋮

**CEP Santa Monica, CA - Estados Unidos**

**Santa Monica**, CA tem 11 **CEPs** diferentes de acordo a zona buscada. Você deve carregar o mapa para encontrar o endereço e a zona postal correspondente.

<https://www.locally.com> › search › activities › depts › l...  ⋮

**CEP Compression in Santa Monica, CA: Footwear, Clothing ...**

Products, brands and stores matching "**Santa Monica**, CA + **CEP** Compression"

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CEPS Website - Excellent Public Schools

[www.excellentpublicschools.org](http://www.excellentpublicschools.org)

**Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS)** is dedicated to the preservation and betterment of **public schools** in the **Santa Monica** -Malibu Unified **School** District.

About CEPS

Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) is dedicated...

Issues

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 4, 2020 CONTACT: Shari Davis...

COMMUNITY FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[excellentpublicschools.blogspot.com](http://excellentpublicschools.blogspot.com)

May 30, 2012 · **COMMUNITY FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS (CEPS)** has advocated for excellent public **schools** in Santa Monica and Malibu for ten years. Its broad-based membership extends across all political lines in **Santa Monica** and Malibu in its common mission of protecting the integrity of **Santa Monica** and Malibu's excellent public school in the face of ever-dwindling state funding.

CEPS - Community for Excellent Public Schools - Home | Facebook

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) · CEPS-Community-for-Excellent

CEPS - **Community for Excellent Public Schools, Santa Monica**, California. 37 likes.

**Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS)** advocates for the preservation and betterment of **public schools** in the...

COMMUNITY FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS: City of Santa Monica ...

[excellentpublicschools.blogspot.com](http://excellentpublicschools.blogspot.com) · 2012 · 05

**Santa Monica**, however, was not about to allow the State's ongoing crisis to decimate its proudly excellent public **schools**. The correlation between excellent public education and a strong city was, in the minds of many leaders in our **community**, undeniable.

Images for Community For Excellent Public Schools Santa Monica



More images for Community For Excellent Public Schools Santa Monica »

COMMUNITY FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Open Letter to Santa ...

[excellentpublicschools.blogspot.com](http://excellentpublicschools.blogspot.com) · 2010 · 07

I am writing on behalf of **Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS)** regarding the proposed Transactions Use Tax item #8 – B on tonight's agenda. As you know, **Community for Excellent Public Schools** has advocated on behalf of preserving and protecting the excellence of our local **public schools** for more than a decade.

COMMUNITY FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS: CEPS Press Release ...

[excellentpublicschools.blogspot.com](http://excellentpublicschools.blogspot.com) · 2010 · 03

**Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS)** is dedicated to the preservation and betterment of **public schools** in the **Santa Monica** -Malibu Unified **School** District. In order to achieve this goal, we resolve: To promote a shared **community** vision for excellence in our **public schools** that includes early childhood and post-secondary education;

Document received by the CA Supreme Court.

[www.smmusd.org](http://www.smmusd.org)

## COMMUNITY FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Thoughts about ...

excellentpublicschools.blogspot.com › 2010 › 11

Now, our work as **Community for Excellent Public Schools** continues. As the organization that originated of the measure that became the current Joint Use Agreement, and stalwart proponents of **school/city** partnerships, the actual process of allocation of these funds and a renegotiation of the current Joint Use agreement must be very high on our ...

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# Exhibit M



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# Santa Monica school funding deal could prevent divisive election

May 5, 2004

A group called CEPS has gathered enough signatures to put an item on the ballot that would guarantee \$6 million of annual funding from Santa Monica to the school district. Malibu residents form local CEPS group.

By Jonathan Friedman/Staff Writer

and Leah Barta/Special to The Malibu Times

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and the city of Santa Monica are racing against the clock to complete a deal on city funding of the district. Santa Monica City Manager Susan McCarthy and SMMUSD Superintendent John Deasy have been negotiating for several weeks, and a proposal is expected to be ready to go before the SMMUSD Board of Education at its Thursday meeting. It is expected to be presented to the Santa Monica City Council at its meeting on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a group called Community for Excellent Public Schools, or CEPS, has gathered enough signatures to put an item on the November ballot that would amend the city charter to require the city of Santa Monica to give \$6 million annually to the district with an increase if city revenues grow by at least 3.5 percent. CEPS will meet on Friday to determine whether it will turn in the petition. If it does, the election will take place regardless of any agreement that is approved between the district and the city.

SMMUSD money that comes from the cities of Malibu and Santa Monica goes directly into the district's General Fund. Therefore, an increase in the amount of money Santa Monica gives would mean more for the Malibu schools. However, the SMMUSD Board of Education has



already approved in concept a proposal for 15 percent of district donations to be placed into a fund, with that money being distributed to the schools based on a formula that gives more to those with economically disadvantaged students and other hardships. One of the elements of the proposal being debated is whether 15 percent of money from the cities would have to be put into the fund.

The CEPS proposal has created intense debate in Santa Monica since it was first proposed in January. Santa Monica city employees have lashed out against it, saying it threatens their jobs in a time when the city faces annual budget deficits for several years. City council members have also come out in opposition to it, calling it fiscally irresponsible to guarantee an amount of money that might not be available. Nevertheless, negotiations between the city and the district have led to an agreement on the \$6 million annual contribution according to The Lookout, a Santa Monica news Web site.

CEPS member Rick Gates said the group would have to decide on Friday whether it likes the agreement. If it decides it does not, then it will pursue with the election. "It's a matter of whether the city gets close enough to what we want, and how close is close enough," Gates said.

Santa Monica City Councilmember Mike Feinstein has been a vocal opponent of the CEPS proposal. In March, he came to a school board meeting to propose various other options, including the city leasing vacant district land. Feinstein said an election would divide the community. In an e-mail sent to The Malibu Times Tuesday, Feinstein wrote that he still feels that way.

"A ballot measure that is unnecessarily divisive, economically unsound and likely illegal as well, can't but help to create divisions," Feinstein wrote.

A new group has formed in Malibu called Malibu CEPS that is working to increase city funding of the district and to raise community outreach for the schools. Co-chair Laura Rosenthal said the group has only met twice since forming in February, so it does not have a set list of goals. She said she expects the group to have one by the summer.

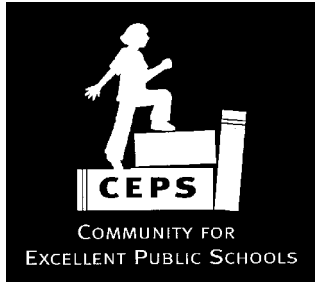
Rosenthal said she was pleased the city of Malibu increased the amount of money it gave to the school district this fiscal year to an all-time high of \$380,000, and it also reached a landmark joint-use agreement with the district for the use of its sports facilities. But Rosenthal said more is possible.

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# Exhibit N

**California State PTA thanks Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) for its organizational support for the *Caravan for Kids*.**



Community for Excellent Public Schools is a non-profit grassroots organization based in Santa Monica.

CEPS is dedicated to the preservation and betterment of public schools. In order to achieve this goal, we resolve:

1. To promote a shared community vision for excellence in our public schools that includes early childhood and post-secondary education;
2. To evaluate and pursue a range of short and long term funding measures through state, city and school district policies and elections;
3. To identify and support issues that will support education and public schools, including early childhood education, after-school programs, and post-secondary public education;
4. To increase public awareness of the value and uniqueness of our public schools;
5. To promote accountability for high quality public education by public institutions and public officials.

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## BACKGROUND FACT SHEET

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MEMBERSHIP   | More than one million members belong to the California State PTA through approximately 3900 local elementary and secondary PTA associations that are organized into 184 PTA councils and 29 PTA districts. Membership is open to parents, teachers, students and community members without regard to race, color, creed or national origin.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| PURPOSE      | <p>The California State PTA is a volunteer organization that works to promote the education and well-being of all children and youth at home, in school and in the community.</p> <p>PTAs are exempted from paying income tax on money earned as a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as from time to time amended, which describes exempt organizations as those which are organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| HISTORY      | The organization was founded in San Francisco in 1897 as the California Home and School Child Study Organization. In 1902 it became affiliated with the National PTA and in 1925 it was incorporated as the California Congress of Parents and Teachers. Recognizing the value of student members, the name was changed to the California Congress of Parents, Teachers, and Students, Inc. in 1978. The Congress' common name is the California State PTA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| ACTIVITIES   | The California State PTA plans and hosts an annual statewide convention, develops projects and programs for use throughout the state and has, since its founding, sought constructive changes in public policy affecting children, youth and families through legislation and a statewide child advocacy program. The California State PTA also promotes and supports the activities of the National PTA and provides ongoing leadership development and training for its constituent units, councils and districts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| MAJOR ISSUES | Program and advocacy efforts cover five major subject areas: communications, community concerns, education, health, and parenting education.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| CONTACTS     | President ..... Carla Niño<br>President Elect ..... Brenda Davis<br>Vice President for Convention ..... Joyce Peariso<br>Vice President for Leadership Services ..... Pam Brady<br>Vice President for Member Services ..... Sue King<br>Vice President for Communications ..... Dinah Showman<br>Vice President for Community Concerns ..... Pat Klotz<br>Vice President for Education ..... Jo Loss<br>Vice President for Health ..... Nancy Adalian<br>Vice President for Parenting Education ..... Kay Trotter<br>Secretary ..... Kay Rookhuyzen<br>Treasurer ..... Michael Opfer<br>Parliamentarian ..... Brenda Steffen<br>Director of Legislation ..... Cecelia Mansfield<br>Chairman of the District Presidents ..... Mary Galuska |

April 2005



# Exhibit O

## The LookOut news

### Local Parents Lead Education Caravan

By Ann Williams  
Special to TheLookout

*April 28* -- Stand back Governor Schwarzenegger. The Santa Monica PTA moms are coming to Sacramento to get the money they say you promised for their children's education.

That is the message sent by local parents itching for a showdown on the Capitol steps, and they vow not to leave until everyone in the state has seen their rally on TV this Thursday.

What started with a handful of Santa Monica parents who formed the Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) to push for more local funding has turned into "Caravan for Kids," a statewide mobilization of parents and students that's converging on the State Capitol to demand more money for California's schools.



*Organizers Fran Kaplan and Kim Eyler lead the Santa Monica contingent through the downtown streets. (Photos by Ann Williams)*

"People are definitely getting riled up and speaking out," said Barbara Inatsugu, President of the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica. "The governor keeps going out" putting his policies before the people.

"It's like one long campaign," Inatsugu said. "So others are responding in kind... I haven't seen people quite this angry and feeling betrayed. He (Schwarzenegger) is bringing people together, just not as he meant."

A crowd of about 50 parents and students boarded the bus at the Civic Center at 10:30 Wednesday morning amid cheers and chants of "Get on the bus!"

"Never before in the history of the PTA" has there been a mobilization like this, CEPS organizer Lynne Leavitt told the excited busful as they pulled out. "You guys are total pioneers!"

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A roster of speakers was waiting for the crowd which now numbered more than 60, and TV news crews were on hand to film their speeches.

“We will not tolerate mediocrity for our children,” Denny Zane, a former mayor and member of CEPS, told the crowd. “We want our governor to get on the bus with us.”



*Former mayor Denny Zane rallies crowd at Governor's Office in downtown L.A.*

“PTA has become a world class fund raising machine,” complained Maria Rodriguez, Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council president.

“We pay for salaries, librarians, nurses, playground equipment, computers.” These are not frills, “they are vital to basic instruction,” she said, calling for the State to fully fund education for all kids in all districts.

Rally organizers say the Governor has reneged on his promise to restore \$2 billion to California’s school. Education officials and activists had agreed to the shortfall last year on the condition that Schwarzenegger promised to pay back the money this year.

They also are protesting the Constitutional Amendment Initiative proposed by the Governor that would repeal features of Proposition 98, the measure approved by voters in 1988 that ensures that schools enjoy a large share of any increase in state revenues.

The parents will meet opposition. “This was a responsible balance in a difficult budget year,” said H.D. Palmer, Deputy Director for the State Department of Finance, speaking for his boss Tom Campbell.

Education will get the largest increase of any item in the budget, Palmer said, adding that inflation is about 3 percent at most, and the general fund increase of 7.1 percent is more than twice that.

But angry parents aren’t buying the math.

“It’s not an increase, it’s quite a bit less” than the cost of living that would allow districts to stay even, said Rebecca Kennerly, the spokesperson for Caravan for Kids.

In addition to under funding, the proposed budget would shift teacher pension costs to local school districts, Kennerly said.

Over the past four years, \$9.8 billion guaranteed by Prop. 98 has failed to reach the schools, resulting in a net loss of \$1500 per pupil, said School Board Member Julia Brownley.

The statewide event “Caravan for Kids” was the brainchild of CEPS, the Santa Monica organization that recently reached an agreement with the City to guarantee at least \$6 million a year in municipal funding to the Santa Monica-Malibu School District.

Once the idea had been developed by CEPS, Lewis-Fanali contacted the California State PTA which was happy to take the “Caravan for Kids” project on and provide their one million member volunteer network for the cause.

At a community meeting during his campaign, Bobby Shriver -- City Council member and the Governor’s brother-in-law -- said of CEPS, “I was so scared of them after forty minutes that I would have done anything they told me.”

Citing their confidence, leadership, hard work and conscientiousness, Zane praised the 18 members of the dynamic organization, calling them “a hell of a crew and frankly a lot of fun.”

PTAs around the state held simultaneous local rallies Wednesday before converging on Sacramento.

The students who attended the rally in Downtown LA got a taste of political empowerment.



*Edison school students Frankie and Simone said "Protesting is fun!"*

The kids were having a field day. “Protesting is fun!” said 10-year-olds Frankie and Simone from Edison Language Academy, the district’s bilingual elementary school.

“I think Arnold’s going down,” said Frankie. “He’s doing too bad, he’s already weak.”

“If people see enough of this Arnold’s going to get in trouble,” agreed Simone.

Frankie is a veteran protester. He once told the School Board not to fire Coach Carlos.

“That worked,” he said. “This is going to work too. Only it’s in reverse - we’re going to fire the Governor.”

“I like to convince people,” he added.

Olympic High Seniors Marissa and Joanna said protesting was fun, too.

“This was our idea,” Marissa said. “He took our dollars, he broke his promise. He opened jails with our money.”

Her history teacher Deborah Siemer agreed, “The only reason we’re here is because of Marissa.”

When the bus got downtown, organizers shepherded the children safely across city streets to the Governor’s office at Ronald Reagan Office Building on Spring Street.

After the 45 minute rally, most of the parents and children got back on the bus for an eight hour ride to Sacramento. Frankie had already ascertained that the TVs on the bus would be turned on for the kids.

Thursday they will hold a mass rally on the Capitol steps at noon where they will confront the Governor with their demands to honor his promises to restore \$2 billion dollars to California’s schools and uphold Proposition 98.

After the rally, PTA members will visit their legislators and ask them to sign a pledge to “Make California schools great again.”

At least two School Board Members, Julia Brownley and Oscar de la Torre, will be going to Sacramento Thursday to join the Capitol steps rally, and Kathy Wisnicki was at Wednesday’s event.

“The good people of Santa Monica are known for progressive politics. This will go down in history as a highlight of our collective activism.” De la Torre reflected while walking to his car after the downtown rally.



LOOKOUT

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EMAIL

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# Exhibit P

# A Decade of Advocacy and Bold Partnerships Help Strengthen City and Schools: Op-Ed:

October 31 marked the one-year anniversary of the passage of the groundbreaking Santa Monica Propositions Y + YY. It also provides the opportunity to recognize and honor the unique partnership that these measures represent between the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District and the City of Santa Monica.

Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS), a Santa Monica-based, all-volunteer, grass-roots political action committee, has advocated for local funding for local public schools for over a decade. Since the beginning, CEPS has bridged political divides, bringing together advocates from divergent groups and philosophies, all committed to protecting local public schools.

In California, public schools rely on the State for most of their funding, yet for the past decade, Sacramento has been the source of deep and relentless cuts, both to our local public schools and to schools up and down the state. In addition, early childhood education, community and Cal State colleges, and even our incredible UC system have all sustained devastating cuts. Public education’s outlook in our once-Golden State is dire.

Nearly a decade ago, CEPS argued that strong local public schools provide tangible and demonstrable financial benefits to their cities and that inadequate funding from the State was not acceptable. We called for “long-term, predictable, ongoing support from the City of Santa Monica for its local public schools”.

In 2003, CEPS proposed a measure to amend the Charter of the City of Santa Monica to provide ongoing direct contributions from the City to SMMUSD schools. After CEPS collected the 15,000 signatures to qualify that measure for the ballot, the City and SMMUSD crafted a direct Master Facilities Use Agreement, which is still in effect and requires renewal in early 2012.

Taking CEPS’s advocacy to a statewide level, in 2005, CEPS strategically partnered with California’s State PTA to organize “Caravan for Kids”, comprising rallies and press conferences across the state, and culminating in a large rally on the Capitol steps in Sacramento.

Education funding crises have pummeled public schools continually for the past decade but time and again our community pulled together to respond. CEPS and many community groups joined forces to work on multiple measures to provide local funding directly to classrooms. A coalition of committed volunteers from multiple groups, including CEPS, PTAs, Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, the Chamber of Commerce, teachers, school staff, administrators, City leaders and many more worked extraordinarily hard on the campaigns. Voters, most of whom did not have school-aged children, demonstrated their commitment to strong public schools by passing these measures and voting to tax themselves to fill funding gaps caused by State cuts.

In 2010, in the middle of one of the worst recessions in recent history, the City of Santa Monica’s City Manager, Rod Gould, proposed a new municipal tax, to shore up funding for local services and public schools. The City Council voted to put it on the ballot, along with a companion advisory measure to describe the sharing of the funds. A diverse coalition, drawing on the strength of the education community, again coalesced to successfully campaign for the two unique ballot measures.

CEPS is deeply appreciative of Mr. Gould’s and the City Council’s commitment to the importance of partnership between the City and the Schools. We believe that these two unprecedented municipal policies, Y and YY, were the right message for the right community at the right time, and that a decade of advocacy to help protect strong public schools contributed to the success of these propositions.

On the one-year anniversary of these groundbreaking measures and partnership, we pause to look back and reflect on how far we have come as a community and say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard to make these accomplishments possible. And because so much work is left to do, CEPS is also driven to look forward.

As cuts continue to come from Sacramento, CEPS will continue its #1 job; advocating to preserve and protect the quality of our local public schools. In addition, we will continue to advocate in local and state elections to help elect representatives who are aware of and ready to take on the challenges to ensure high quality public education. And CEPS will become more involved at the State level, since, after all, Sacramento is the place where funding and policy decisions live and die.

Moreover, on this anniversary celebrating the passage of Y and YY, CEPS is excited by the myriad opportunities developing in the wake of the strengthening partnership between our community and our schools. Santa Monica’s Buy Local campaign is building a strong working relationship between our education and business communities, and the emerging work of the Santa Monica Youth Resource Team brings schools and the community together to provide a continuum of services, outreach, and opportunities to children throughout our community, from cradle to career.

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At its core, education advocacy – for CEPS, for our community leaders, and for every individual – boils down to providing each child the very best opportunity possible to learn. We are so proud and grateful that our great community is committed to the education of all of its children. Through true partnership, we all grow stronger.

Happy Birthday Y + YY. Many happy returns of the day!

Yours for Excellent Public Schools,

**Shari Davis and Rebecca Kennerly**

**Co-chairs, Community for Excellent Public Schools**

**On behalf of the CEPS Steering Committee**

By [mirrormmg](#) November 1, 2011  
in [News](#)



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# Exhibit Q



# Education Activist Group Makes Election Endorsements

By Lookout Staff

*September 30, 2010* --Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) on Thursday endorsed all the incumbents in the City Council and Board of Education races. The education advocacy group also backed challenger Ted Winterer as a fourth pick in the four-year council race despite there only be three seats available. Challenger Laurie Lieberman received support for the school board competition.

The selections were made by the CEPS Steering Committee following a forum on Monday. A CEPS press release states the primary criteria for endorsements in the council races were the candidates' positions on Measures Y and YY (the half-cent sales tax proposal and the advisory measure that calls for half the tax revenue to go to education). The Steering Committee also voted to endorse both measures.

"CEPS noted the longtime service of (incumbents) Bob Holbrook, Pam O'Connor and Kevin McKeown to the City of Santa Monica and their proven commitment to education issues," the release states. "The group also felt that Ted Winterer, an SMMUSD parent and Santa Monica Planning Commissioner, would be a valuable addition to the City Council."

Those three incumbents and Winterer are running four three four-year positions on the council. The incumbents receiving the CEPS endorsement for the two two-year seats are Terry O'Day and Gleam Davis.

For the Board of Education race, the endorsed incumbents are Oscar de la Torre, Ralph Mechur and Barry Snell. The release states that the CEPS support is "a vote of confidence for the direction and positive moves currently underway within the District. Each of these incumbents had a strong role to play in Special Education reform, guiding the District through its recent budget crises and helping develop the focus and goals for the District, which has just seen a significant rise in student test scores."

As for the endorsement for Lieberman, the release states CEPS "feels (she) will add a strong, new and extremely knowledgeable voice to the SMMUSD Board of Education."

CEPS is the most powerful education activist group in Santa Monica. It was behind the 2004 push to greatly increase funding from the City to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

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# Exhibit R



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| 153684142 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 01/11/2015  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 10/19/2014 to 12/31/2014 ) | <a href="#">View</a>  |
| 153796883 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 01/06/2015  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 01/01/2013 to 06/30/2013 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |

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| 153895868 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 12/09/2014  | FPPC 410           | Original |      | ( 12/09/2014 to 12/09/2014 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
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| 152758373 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/23/2014  | FPPC 496           | Original | 8    |                              | <a href="#">View</a>  |
| 152758351 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/23/2014  | FPPC 496           | Original | 7    |                              | <a href="#">View</a>  |
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| 152758212 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/23/2014  | FPPC 496           | Original | 3    |                              | <a href="#">View</a>  |
| 152758185 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/23/2014  | FPPC 496           | Original | 2    |                              | <a href="#">View</a>  |
| 152758110 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/23/2014  | FPPC 496           | Original | 1    |                              | <a href="#">View</a>  |
| 152757574 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/23/2014  | FPPC 465           | Original |      | ( 10/01/2014 to 10/18/2014 ) | <a href="#">View</a>  |
| 152757458 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/23/2014  | FPPC 465           | Original |      | ( 10/01/2014 to 10/18/2014 ) | <a href="#">View</a>  |
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| 152757162 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/23/2014  | FPPC 465      | Original |      | ( 10/01/2014 to 10/18/2014 ) | <a href="#">View</a>  |
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| 152757073 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/23/2014  | FPPC 465      | Original |      | ( 10/01/2014 to 10/18/2014 ) | <a href="#">View</a>  |
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| 152728569 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/22/2014  | FPPC Form 497 | Original | 12   |                              | <a href="#">View</a>  |
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| 152643822 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/10/2014  | FPPC Form 497 | Original |      |                              | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 152609699 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/09/2014  | FPPC Form 497 | Original | 6    |                              | <a href="#">View</a>  |
| 152618484 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/09/2014  | FPPC Form 497 | Original | 7    |                              | <a href="#">View</a>  |
| 152618111 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/06/2014  | FPPC 410      | Original |      | ( 10/06/2014 to 10/06/2014 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 152579760 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 10/06/2014  | FPPC Form 497 | Original | 5    |                              | <a href="#">View</a>  |
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| 6656040   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 07/31/2008  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 01/01/2008 to 06/30/2008 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6656166   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 01/31/2008  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 07/01/2007 to 12/31/2007 ) | <a href="#">View</a>  |
| 6654672   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 07/31/2007  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 01/01/2007 to 06/30/2007 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654670   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 01/31/2007  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 10/22/2006 to 12/31/2006 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654667   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 10/26/2006  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 10/01/2006 to 10/21/2006 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654664   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 10/05/2006  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 07/01/2006 to 09/30/2006 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654661   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 07/31/2006  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 01/01/2006 to 06/30/2006 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654659   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 01/18/2006  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 07/01/2005 to 12/31/2005 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654657   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 08/01/2005  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 01/01/2005 to 06/30/2005 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654655   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 01/11/2005  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 07/01/2004 to 12/31/2004 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654652   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 10/21/2004  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 10/01/2004 to 10/16/2004 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654650   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 08/02/2004  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 05/15/2004 to 06/30/2004 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654648   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 05/17/2004  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 04/15/2004 to 05/14/2004 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654646   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 04/27/2004  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 03/16/2004 to 04/14/2004 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654644   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 03/23/2004  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 02/15/2004 to 03/15/2004 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654642   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 02/04/2004  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 01/21/2004 to 01/30/2004 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6654638   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 01/28/2004  | FPPC 460 | Original |      | ( 07/01/2003 to 12/31/2003 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |

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| 152510016 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 09/30/2014  | FPPC Form 497      | Original | 2    |                              | <a href="#">View</a>  |
| 152493399 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 09/27/2014  | FPPC Form 497      | Original | 1    |                              | <a href="#">View</a>  |
| 152501272 | Community for Excellent Public Schools | 09/12/2014  | FPPC 410           | Original |      | ( 09/12/2014 to 09/12/2014 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 152115308 | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 07/31/2014  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 01/01/2014 to 06/30/2014 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 149555287 | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 02/03/2014  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 07/01/2013 to 12/31/2013 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 139513345 | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 01/31/2013  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 07/01/2012 to 12/31/2012 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 133626723 | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 07/31/2012  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 01/01/2012 to 06/30/2012 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 130541796 | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 04/19/2012  | FPPC 460 Amendment | 1        |      | ( 07/01/2011 to 12/31/2011 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 129150727 | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 01/31/2012  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 07/01/2011 to 12/31/2011 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 124241271 | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 08/01/2011  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 01/01/2011 to 06/30/2011 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 31624797  | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 01/31/2011  | FPPC 410           | Original |      |                              | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 31624829  | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 01/31/2011  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 07/01/2010 to 12/31/2010 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 10792966  | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 08/02/2010  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 05/09/2010 to 06/30/2010 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 10291648  | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 05/13/2010  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 01/01/2010 to 05/08/2010 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 10291642  | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 05/13/2010  | FPPC 410           | Original |      | ( 05/13/2010 to 05/13/2010 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 8217602   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 02/03/2010  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 07/01/2009 to 12/31/2009 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 8218018   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 02/03/2010  | FPPC 410           | Original |      | ( 02/03/2010 to 02/03/2010 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |
| 6657300   | Committee for Excellent Public Schools | 08/04/2009  | FPPC 460           | Original |      | ( 01/01/2009 to 06/30/2009 ) | <a href="#">Paper</a> |

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California Secretary of State

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People running for state offices (such as Governor or State Assembly), as well as political action committees, lobbyists, lobbyist employers and lobbying firms that conduct business in California are required to register with the California Secretary of State and file financial activity reports. Candidates and committees who raise or spend more than \$25,000 must electronically file their reports; those who spend or raise less than \$25,000 may file paper reports. All lobbyists, lobbyist employers and lobbying firms with quarterly activity of \$2,500 or more file electronically. Electronic [campaign finance filings for state offices](#) and [state lobbying activity filings](#) can be viewed through the California Secretary of State website.

Californians running for federal offices (President, U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate) are required to register and file financial activity reports with the [Federal Election Commission](#) . Federal

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campaign committees do not file reports with the California Secretary of State.

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# Exhibit U



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Click on the Organization Name for details about the registration or report record. The maximum number of records shown per page is 50. If there are multiple pages of the search results, the clickable page numbers will be displayed at the bottom. If you get too many results or do not find the organization for which you are searching, click the '**Search Again**' button and change the search criteria. It is best to search by something that is as unique to the organization as possible such as State Charity Registration Number, FEIN, SOS Corporate Number, or an unusual portion of their name. To see all registration and report records associated with an organization, avoid searching by State Charity Registration Number as that is record-specific.

| <u>ORGANIZATION NAME</u>             | <u>RECORD TYPE</u>   | <u>REGISTRY STATUS</u> | <u>RCT NUMBER</u> | <u>FEIN</u> | <u>CITY</u>  | <u>ST</u> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| <u>PICO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION</u> | Charity Registration | Delinquent             | <u>041017</u>     | 942675539   | SANTA MONICA | CA        |

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## **PROOF OF SERVICE**

I, Christopher M. Harding, declare as follows:

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am not a party to this action. My address is 1250 Sixth Street, Suite 200, Santa Monica, California 90401. On July 19, 2021, I served:

**OPPOSITION OF AMICI CURIAE THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA MONICA, THE ALLIANCE OF SANTA MONICA LATINO AND BLACK VOTERS, HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL SANTA MONICA BAY AREA, AND COMMUNITY FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PLAINTIFFS-RESPONDENTS' MOTION TO STRIKE AMICUS BRIEF FILED IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT AND APPELLANT CITY OF SANTA MONICA; DECLARATIONS AND EXHIBITS**

on the parties stated below, by the following means of service:


**Via Electronic Filing/Submission:**

*(Via electronic submission through the TrueFiling web page at [www.truefiling.com](http://www.truefiling.com))*

**SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST**

- ☒ **BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE:** A true and correct copy of the above-titled document was electronically served on the persons listed on the attached service list.
- ☒ **BY U.S. MAIL:** By placing a true copy of the document(s) listed above for collection and mailing in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid for deposit in the United States mail at Santa Monica, California addressed as indicated on the attached service list.
- ☒ **(STATE)** I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on July 19, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher M. Harding

Document received by the CA Supreme Court.

## SERVICE LIST

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